

# ALFRED COOKMAN.

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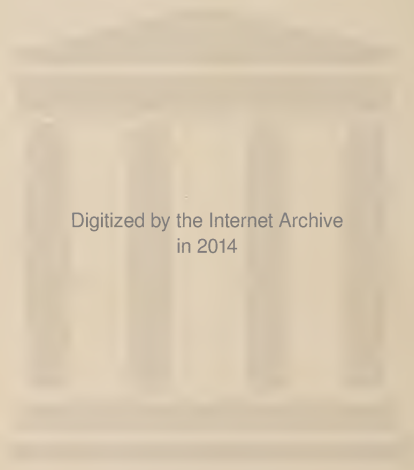
The life of the Rev. Alfred  
Cookman







My dearest Mother

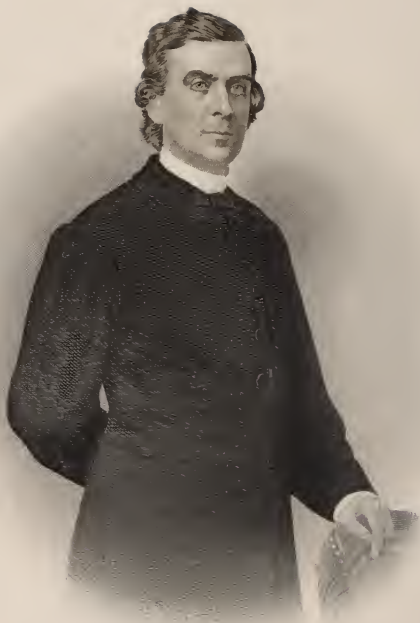


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THE LIFE OF  
THE  
REV. ALFRED COOKMAN.







Alfred Lockman

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THE LIFE OF  
THE  
REV. ALFRED COOKMAN;

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF HIS FATHER,  
THE REV. GEORGE GRIMSTON COOKMAN.

BY  
HENRY B. RIDGAWAY, D.D.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE REV. R. S. FOSTER, LL.D.,  
*Bishop of the M. E. Church.*



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TO  
MRS. MARY COOKMAN,  
MOTHER OF ALFRED COOKMAN,

THE DEVOUT CHRISTIAN LADY WHO, THROUGH A LONG LIFE, HAS SO  
BEAUTIFULLY EXEMPLIFIED THE DOCTRINES  
TAUGHT BY HER SON,

*This Volume is Affectionately Inscribed*  
BY  
THE AUTHOR.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE lives of the good and great are the heritage of the ages. While they are with us they enrich us with our choicest treasures. When they depart from us they bequeath the still richer legacy of the memory of their noble deeds and exalted virtues—richer, because what was little and ignoble in them perishes with their dust ; while only what was good and pure remains, taking on greater lustre after their translation. From their thrones in the heavens they shed down upon us a more potent influence than that which they excited when they were journeying the vale of our earthly suffering with us. They do not more really live in their far-off homes than in our memories and fond affections. We do not see them or touch them—much as we long to—but we feel their presence and power. We persuade ourselves that invisibly they linger in our homes as ministering angels—if not sharing our sorrows, at least watching in loving vigils over us.

As when they were alive we wanted every one to know and love them, so, being dead, we desire to transmit to unborn ages the knowledge of them. The desire, I take it, is not more natural than beautiful—not more honoring to the dead than ennobling to the living.

There is that in a true biography which charms us with a strange spell. We find in it, however it may differ from our own history and experiences, an image of our deepest self; which, under all varieties, is in substance the same in every humanity. We witness the same struggles of the better with the more ignoble qualities—the same alternations of doubt and trust, of fear and hope—the same sorrows and joys and loves—the same earthly and heavenly longings—the same tug-gings at the heart—the same successes and defeats—the same all things that enter into this strange earthly life we are living—the same coming and going of the bright and dark days over the mottled landscape of our being. So we are rebuked and comforted, chided and encouraged on the same page. The communion, when the life we contemplate is on the whole beautiful and good, is healthful. Unconsciously we enter into its confluence, make it our own, and, with greater clearness than if it were actually ours, discern and appreciate its good and evil.

What a wonderful thing a human life is! Who considers it rightly? I do not now mean some human life, but any human life—not the life of the great more than the little. On some day—and it matters not when or where—the good God, Father of us all, lays a little babe on a woman's breast. It is a wee thing, just breathing a soft, sweet breath, the faintest ripple of an unconscious life—the merest germ. It is the dawn of an immortal history of strange, I was about to write divine, consciousnesses. Earthquakes rend the globe, great forces convulse, it may be, the sidereal universe,



but in that fragile bosom are stored potencies mightier than all material agencies—not so obvious, but infinitely greater. Helpless it lies there on the pillow of maternal love. The fountain springing at its lips nourishes it. It drinks and sleeps and grows. A little while and its dull eye grows bright. Inquisitive wonder looks out between the lids. The days and weeks and months swell into years. The baby is a boy—the boy a youth—the youth a man. Mustering up the years to the drum-beat of each pulse, come joys and sorrows, hopes and loves. Young manhood, with its witching ardors and exciting but too delusive hopes, stands, flushed with pride and ambition, before us. Real life is in the offing. As yet it opens with brightness and beauty. The gathering clouds show only the silver linings—it is morning, with the sweet breath of spring. But on behind these come other years. The dun level of middle manhood and mature age crowds quick upon the vanishing hold of youth. Now life is real and earnest. Sorrows and cares and labors flood all the moments to their brim—and heartaches and weariness come with the morning and thicken to the evening. The great, hard world, with its manifold evils, and the stormy eternity, with its terrors, open upon the gaze of the immortal spirit. The struggle is brief. Death strikes: one part of a life has been lived—the greater part remains. Such is the outline of each human history. To one there is more of evil, to another more of good; but the story is the same. Among these lives comes occasionally one of more than ordinary beauty, and men love to gaze on it and linger over it. It is the charm of the genera-

tion—of the ages. When it vanishes, the darkness shrouds us all.

Such was the life delineated in these pages. It rarely happens that so noble a subject finds so worthy a biographer. The book will be found crowded with beauty and entertainment from beginning to end. The story it tells will not be interesting to all; but to every admirer of the delicate delineation of pure and noble manhood it will be rich as a poem. It is more than a biography. The distinguished father is scarcely less the subject of the sketch than the gifted son. The writer has brought the entire Christian commonwealth under obligation, by restoring the lustre of an almost perished name, which was once the joy of all denominations in two hemispheres. Especially American Methodism, in which the name of George G. Cookman has been as sweet incense for two generations, will gladly acknowledge the debt.

Alfred Cookman, the immediate subject, has but lately passed away. His memory is yet fresh with us all—the memory of the joy we had of his rare ministry, and of the sorrow—yet unassuaged—that thrilled us all by his sudden death.

The work of delineating his character and reciting the story of his life is done in the following pages. Dr. Ridgaway, the life-long friend, not more qualified by close intimacies than by the rare and peculiar qualities of his own mind, has left nothing to be added or desired. It is a high commendation to his work to say that he has done justice to his subject. Yet I can not close this brief introduction without laying a small tribute on the shrine of Alfred Cookman, and it shall relate to

a single aspect of his character, which profoundly impressed me, as I think it did every one. I never thought him a genius. He was not, in my judgment, transcendently gifted. He was eloquent, and many times mighty in the pulpit. I am certain that this was the verdict of thousands that hung with delight and profit on his words. But it was not his great intellectual power, nor yet his persuasive eloquence, that impressed me chiefly. The one quality in which he seemed to me to rise above not only the mass of men and the select best, but, I must say it, above every man it has been my privilege to know, was the sacredness of his entire life. Not in the pulpit alone, not in the prayer-circle alone, nor in his pastoral walks exclusively, but every where and at all times he seemed invested—not with simulated sanctity—but a Christliness that was as beautiful as it was impressive. His own life was the ablest sermon he ever preached on the subject with which his name is so intimately associated. He lived “the higher life,” even more than he preached it. His sweet, gentle, and holy walk was both more eloquent and convincing than his most impassioned discourses. His dying words—fitting culmination to his sacred life—will echo in Christian song down the centuries: “Sweeping through the gates, washed in the blood of the Lamb!”

R. S. FOSTER.

MADISON, N. J., *July*, 1873.





“Suffer me to imitate the passion of my God. My Love is crucified ; there is no fire in me desiring earthly fuel ; that which lives and speaks within me says—‘ Home to the Father.’ ”

*St. Ignatius yearning for Martyrdom.*

# LIFE OF ALFRED COOKMAN.

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## CHAPTER I.

THE COOKMAN FAMILY.—GEORGE GRIMSTON COOKMAN.

THE REV. ALFRED COOKMAN was descended from a worthy ancestry. His father, the Rev. George Grimston Cookman, was a man of such powers and fame; his talents and reputation became, by so remarkable a providence, the inheritance of his son; his influence upon the son was so direct and continuous, that I find, in the absence of any adequate account of the father, it is quite impossible to do justice to either without dwelling more fully on the career of the father than a biography of the son would seem to allow. While it might be honor enough for George G. Cookman to be remembered as the father of Alfred, yet there was that in him—in what he was and did—which makes it proper that no extended memoir be given of the son without such a portraiture of the father as shall be in some degree worthy of his distinguished character and services.

My apology for dwelling longer on the annals of the father than is customary in such cases, is the simple desire to so present the name of Cookman, made illustrious first in the father, and maintained afterward in the son, as that it shall be transmitted an unbroken name, suggestive of sanctity, eloquence, and usefulness wherever known and pronounced.

George Grimston Cookman was born in the town of Kingston-upon-Hull, Yorkshire, England, October 21, 1800. His

parents were George and Mary Cookman. Of these parents George himself wrote in 1825 to Miss Mary Barton, who was then his betrothed, and afterward became his wife : " My father is the younger brother of an old English family who, as sturdy yeomanry, had resided upon their family estates in the east end of Holderness for five generations back. My father left home early in life, and at eighteen years of age became serious, and a member and local preacher in the Methodist Society. He is constant in all his purposes, and unwavering in all his attachments—a judicious rather than a romantic husband, a kind rather than a fond father. He is independent in his principles even to the verge of republicanism ; what the world terms a downright honest man. Yet there are perplexing paradoxes in his character. Possessing genuine, active courage, he hides it under a natural diffidence and modesty ; with deep and strong feeling, he will generally pass for what Alfred calls a phlegmatic melancholic. Indeed, he has brought himself under so severe mental discipline and such habitual caution, that he represses all that gives a glow to feeling or a brilliance to thought under the fear of committing himself. But when you can draw him out of his shell, you find he can conceive and feel and speak with both brilliance and power. As a Christian, he is eminently consistent, liberal, and unwavering. I have sometimes thought that his habitual judgment has induced a want of faith in temporal matters, but I have met with few men so even and constant in their religious walk. Now my mother is almost the reverse of all this. She was the daughter of a retired and wounded officer of the Royal Navy ; was left an orphan in early life, and was educated in the same house with her cousin, Mr. John Bell, of Portington. She became pious in early life, and endured much persecution from her uncle with unflinching courage. She enjoyed the blessing of perfect love for many years, and when in health was eminent for activity and good works. She possesses a much higher range of talent



than my father—has more genius and less judgment—romantic in all her feelings, ardent in her attachments and resentments. She has ten times as much faith as my father. She has a keen, ready mind, but wants comparison and discrimination. She has a vehemency of impulse, and a strength and decision of will, and a power of faith which, if it had been united with a strong frame in the other sex, would have made her an eminent missionary. Now my father professes little, but feels a great deal; my mother feels deeply, and tells you of it too.” He had a brother, Alfred, younger than himself by four years, and a sister, Mary Ann. Of them he also wrote, in order to complete the picture of the family: “Alfred is the finest youth I have ever met with—high in all his notions, lofty and liberal in his principles. Pride and ambition are his ruling passions. Of lion-like spirit, headstrong self-will, and a most vehement and overbearing temper, the world will see in him a second Brougham. And yet I know no one to whom you might commit yourself for candid judgment with greater confidence than our Alfred. Mary Ann, my beloved Mary Ann, is a most affectionate and amiable girl. I thought two years ago she would be a tame, passive character, but she is developing striking and spirited traits. She has more perseverance and judgment for her years than either Alfred or myself. I think she will not be behind either in intellect, and before both in prudence.”

What is here said of his brother Alfred is not too strongly put. From the testimony of friends, and the proofs given in his letters, essays, and speeches, he must have been a youth of unusual promise. He early devoted himself to God, and became one of the most exemplary Christians. His tastes and convictions led him to choose the law for his profession. When this preference was expressed, the judicious father laid before him all the difficulties which would lie in his path: The long and expensive process of college and professional education; the still longer period which must elapse before he could reasonably

expect to get into practice ; the want of patronage ; the envy of the aristocracy, ever manifested to aspirants at the bar springing from the middle classes of society ; and concluded by saying, "Remember, Alfred, if you insist on this course, the whole of your patrimonial fortune will be expended on your education ;" to which Alfred fearlessly and magnanimously replied, "I care not when I enter the bar if I have not a shilling. I will make my own fortune, you may depend upon it." His facility of speech, readiness in debate, quickness of perception, wit—his striking person, and deep-toned and melodious voice—made him from boyhood "one of nature's orators." On one occasion, in the debating society of which he was a member, a gentleman of the bar from London chanced to hear him, and remarked afterward, "I would give my library, and all I am worth in the world, to have the amazing power of reply exhibited by that boy." He passed successfully through the course at Glasgow University, where he had the most capable of instructors, and listened on Sundays to such preachers as Chalmers and Wardlaw.

After his graduation from the University, he went up to London and entered a law-office. While engaged in his studies there, he became convinced of his duty to preach the Gospel. He determined to enter the ministry ; and accordingly returned home, and began to apply himself unremittingly to a course of reading preparatory to admission into the Wesleyan Conference. His application was too close, his vigils too protracted ; his health failed, and he speedily fell into a pulmonary consumption from which he died.

Mr. Cookman, the father, was one of the best representatives of the English middle class. By success in trade he rose to that degree of affluence which enabled him to live in a style of great comfort and quiet dignity ; by his reputation for sound judgment and probity, he acquired the respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens, and was elected mayor of Hull, a position which he retained for many years ; and by his earnest and con-

sistent devotion to the doctrines and usages of Wesleyan Methodism, he enjoyed the loyal affection of both the preachers and laymen of his denomination throughout his neighborhood. His good sense, genial piety, and generous hospitality made his house a centre of Methodist influence. In politics he sympathized with the more advanced men and measures of his times.

It is evident, however, that the mother, from the brief description already given, was the inspiration of the Cookman home. Her ardent temperament, vivid imagination, active faith, and courage, imparted to the sons the living spark which kindled in them a genius for speech and for the heroic in action. She was one of the women of gentle birth who became a Methodist when it was a reproach to be one; and, persecuted for her faith by her own family, she knew what it was to hold to convictions when it required the keenest suffering to do so. At the shrine of her self-denying piety was lighted the flame of the future missionary's zeal—a zeal which burned in him resistlessly till quenched in death. Thus we see that the parent stock from which the Cookmans of this and a former generation were derived was one combining in the father and the mother that happy union of qualities which usually gives rise in the offspring to distinguished powers and successes.

George Grimston, as the eldest born of his parents, very naturally received a large share of their attention. In an account of himself written in 1826, before entering the regular ministry, with a view to his own improvement, he records, "Never was a child more carefully instructed, more carefully watched over, or more earnestly exhorted by Christian parents to love and serve God than myself. And perhaps up to my eighth year the influence of these gracious instructions so far operated as to preserve me from the guilt of actual sin." At this time he was sent away to school; where, through evil associations, he was led astray and fell into some sinful habits. He was, however, at this early period the subject of keen convictions of conscience.

He lived with the fear that every night would be the end of the world. While the other boys of the school were sleeping quietly, he would be standing at the chamber window, "momentarily expecting the Judge to descend and the trumpet to blow." His views of sin and of personal guilt were not such as to lead to repentance. He was soon after removed to another school at a fashionable watering-place, where he began "a career of more decided sin and folly." At fourteen he returned home a different being, changed in principle and purpose—far astray from the simplicity with which at eight he had left the parental roof. His father took him promptly under his care, and through his guidance he imbibed a taste for books, and became a reader especially of history. He was put to business, kept diligently at work, but was encouraged to read in all his leisure hours. He became a member of a public library association, and formed, with several other intelligent young men, a debating club, thus finding in literary pursuits a wholesome diversion for his active nature, and also a means of stimulating and training his intellect. In contact with Grecian and Roman characters and institutions, he acquired the lofty notions of freedom and the rights of man which marked his subsequent career. Literature, though attractive, did not reform him; business was incapable of it: he gave the reins to passion, and plunged into the stream of worldliness.

When about eighteen years old he became a teacher in a Methodist Sunday-school. He was impelled by motives which he could not regard as genuine: "I approved of the design theoretically; besides, my parents being Methodists, I thought I should assist in their Sabbath-school; but I had no more knowledge or regard for the religious duty or responsibility of a teacher than the babe unborn." He was convicted of sin through the questioning of his scholars as to the meaning of God's Word. "I began seriously to think and reason about the matter in the following way: Why, I have come forward to instruct these

children, and I am ignorant myself. I, who talk to them about serving God, am serving the devil, and on the road to hell—yea, every boy in my class might turn round and say, ‘Physician, heal thyself.’”

I can not give the story of his conversion more succinctly than he has done it: “These goadings and lashings of a condemning conscience made me miserable, and compelled me to a more close examination of my condition; and soon I saw that I was miserable and helpless, and blind and naked; that I stood obnoxious to God’s holy law; was under the Almighty’s curse, and each moment in danger of everlasting ruin. Still, however, I was rather convicted in judgment than broken in heart, and it is probable that these gracious impressions would have been overwhelmed by the strong bias of my mind to evil; but the good Lord added one or two other circumstances to aid and quicken the spiritual conviction. Just at that time I was disappointed in a particular friendship, which sickened and soured my mind to this world’s enjoyments, and immediately upon this, the dearest friend I had in the world, after an illness of three days, died. This was the consummation of my misery; it seemed the final blow. I was tired of life, yet afraid to die; I was indulging in the world, yet sick of its pleasures; amid society, I was solitary; while within my own heart I carried the alarm-bell of a guilty conscience—in short, I hated life, I hated myself, I was miserable; this misery was not repentance; it was misanthropy, not contrition. And, indeed, so well convinced was I of this, that when the pious Methodists kindly invited me to partake of the blessings of Christian communion, I told them that I was totally unfit to be a member of their society, as I had not a desire to flee from the wrath to come. I had no soft compunctions on account of sin, no realization of guilt toward God; but the obdurate misery and wretchedness of a disappointed votary of pleasure. Thus I continued as miserable as I could be. Yet I did reform my outward

conduct ; I did forsake my gay and frivolous companions ; nay, more, I acted diligently as secretary in a large Sabbath-school, and endeavored, amid a multiplicity of business, to bury all knowledge and memory of myself. But this arose not from any clear sense of duty, or any love to God or men, but simply because I was sick and tired of the world ; and, as I could not enjoy it, I forsook it. At length, however, the day-spring arose in my benighted soul ; the light of grace showed me more perspicuously my real condition. I saw that I had lost the image of God—bore the image of the Evil One ; that I was ignorant in understanding, corrupt and deceitful in heart, polluted in body, and desperately wicked in conduct. I saw that in my present state it was impossible I could be saved, for ‘without holiness no man can see the Lord.’ I saw clearly that I must be eternally lost ; for already I was under sentence of death, and God was bound by his immutable word to punish all transgression.

“Under these gracious convictions, having fully resolved to seek salvation, to renounce the world, and to serve God, I joined the Methodist Society in February, 1820, and soon I found the blessings of Christian fellowship. Under the fatherly instruction and care of my excellent leader, light beamed brighter into my soul ; I was called to see deeper into my own depravity, and finally I clearly apprehended that salvation was only to be obtained by faith in a crucified Redeemer. Nine months did I seek the blessing of justification earnestly and with many tears. Often in secret places, in garrets, in the open fields, or under hedges, I have poured forth my requests with strong cries, but still the day of liberty seemed at a distance, until I had well-nigh despaired. One Saturday night I had retired to rest under considerable condemnation for having indulged in an acrimonious spirit toward a near relative. I recollect, before I fell asleep, this passage gave me considerable trouble, ‘Let not the sun go down upon thy wrath.’ I awoke (I believe by the providence of God) about two o’clock in the morning, and my

misery and horror of mind were indescribable. . All the weight of my sins seemed now bearing down upon my wretched soul, and ready to force me down to that bottomless pit which appeared just yawning ; in this situation I cried mightily to God for deliverance and pardon, but the heavens were as brass to my prayers, and the storm of Almighty wrath increased apace. My agony of mind was now wrought up to its highest pitch, when suddenly I caught a glimpse of Christ on Calvary ; then I cried with the desperation of a drowning man, ' Lord, I believe ; help Thou my unbelief ! ' ' Lord, save or I perish ! ' ' Though Thou slay me, yet will I believe in Thee ! ' And suddenly there was a great calm—the storm was hushed—the burden was gone—and I felt that God, for Christ's sake, had forgiven me all my sins. Being justified by faith, I had peace with God through my Lord Jesus Christ. It is true I had not that rapturous joy which some testify ; but I had the peace which passeth all understanding. Oh ! yes ; the Spirit did bear witness with my spirit that I was a child of God. I lay me down, and sweetly fell asleep ; and in the morning, when I awoke, I asked, Is this a dream ? And I felt it was indeed a truth that I was justified freely through the blood of Christ."

The young believer now found a great difference in his experience, not only in the comfort which arose from a sense of acceptance with God, but also in the easy victory over sin which his spiritual renewal had bestowed. Nor was he content to rest in the experience of divine favor ; he at once gave himself to religious work in various plans of benevolence, such as the Young Men's Visiting Society and the Juvenile Branch Missionary Society. Yearning for the salvation of souls, he began very soon to feel the desire "for a broader field of labor as a preacher of righteousness." His views of a call to the ministry were so positive as not to allow him to go forward hurriedly. "Indeed, so jealous was I of my own heart, and so severe in my notions upon this subject, that I was resolved, if this call

was not unanswerably given from God to my soul, I would forever remain silent."

In keeping with this purpose, not to run before he was called, Mr. Cookman kept steadily on his way, following closely the indications of Providence and of the Spirit as he could discern them. In 1821 he visited America on business for his father; and returning, was as deeply engrossed as any other young man of business, doing with diligence the duty which lay next to him. After a lapse of over two years I find him breathing the same devout and evangelical spirit, with a persuasion that God, amid severe trials and with great opportunities, was grounding him in the truth, and conforming his heart more and more to His own will. January 22, 1823, he writes: "I have been composing the skeleton of my first sermon from 1 Cor. ii., 2. Sunday fortnight I am to preach at St. Paul.\* When I consider my unworthiness, I am ready to sink into the dust. Lord, prepare me." A week before preaching he asks, "Have I a clear call to preach the Gospel?" and upon examining himself by five tests, concludes "that a dispensation of grace is committed to me, and woe be to me if I preach not the Gospel." In addition to the usual tests which occurred to him, was the impression received while in America, and while on shipboard, that he must preach the Gospel, "and that too in America." He had gone to America for secular ends, but God had already decreed his return to America on a higher errand. His first pulpit efforts were well received. He preached quite regularly, and showed from the first the elements of power. The missionary ardor was kindling in his soul. His father proposed to establish him in business; but he wished to cut loose from all such entanglements, and enter himself forthwith at an American college for a course of preparation for the ministry. He yielded, however, to the dissuasions of his father and friends, who thought him already in the best possible school of prepa-

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\* Hull.



ration and in the path of duty. Without abandoning his purpose to preach, he waited upon God, resolving to do his duty, and leave consequences with God.

After a sermon preached at the Scott Street Chapel, he was greatly depressed. "I had entered the pulpit with a comfortable assurance of the divine favor, when, strange to tell, all upon a sudden my mind was beclouded; and, although I was perfectly master of the subject, I was yet bound in spirit." "I expected no one could profit; but, to my amazement, almost all expressed themselves as being much edified." He could not fail of a valuable lesson from this experience. Within a short time he made his first platform address, and achieved, in this maiden effort, that marked success which, so often repeated in after years, constituted him a prince among platform speakers. "When I ascended the platform my soul seemed weighed down with a sense of my unfitness. 'Oh! my God,' I could not help crying, 'why am I here? These poor heathen never trifled away privileges as I have done.' When my name was called from the chair, I was in this low state. I thought at first (owing to a violent hoarseness) that I should have to sit down, but just at this instant divine light broke in upon my soul, my voice cleared, my heart filled with holy love and fire, and I was enabled to speak with a force unknown before. The place was filled with the heavenly influence, and the loud, silvery, and hearty amens were affecting and cheering. Nothing afflicted me so much as the compliments of my friends. It seemed dishonoring God; because I am convinced He gave the power and sent the influence. The Lord shall have all the glory." It is not difficult for those who subsequently heard Mr. Cookman in this peculiar realm, at the zenith of his popularity, to imagine the utter wonder and pleasure which this beginning of surprises must have occasioned to those who were present.

The purpose of God with his young servant was now fast showing itself. The apple was well-nigh ripe, when it either would

fall of itself or could be easily plucked. Mr. Joshua Marsden strongly recommended him to offer himself to the American (Methodist) bishops, to take a circuit in the first instance ; afterwards, if Providence opened the way, he could enter upon the missionary work. But he had engaged in business with his father for the term of three years, after which time he proposed to turn his attention more decidedly to the ministry, with the intention of going to America. His diary bears evidence at this period of the closest heart searchings ; of the deepest and the most unaffected devotion to the service of Christ. The prayer is constantly on his lips, "What wilt Thou have me do?" There is no duty which he does not discharge, no self-sacrifice from which he shrinks : he is ready to do any work, to go, if need be, to the ends of the earth to preach the Gospel.

While his mind was particularly exercised in regard to an immediate entrance upon the ministry, he was appointed to drive Mr. Clough (one of the circuit preachers of Hull) to Partington. Mr. Clough impressed upon him the duty of present action, if he would not grieve the Holy Spirit ; another young friend, and to his surprise the Rev. Mr. W. Entwistle, on whom he shortly after called, expressed the same view. Considerably agitated by such a concurrence of opinions, he laid the whole matter before his father, fully anticipating his decided negative for the present, when, to his great surprise, his father frankly told him that he had long been of the opinion that he was called to the ministry ; and that, although his immediate departure might cause inconvenience, yet he would not throw one stumbling-block in his way, but rather further the ordinations of Providence by every prudent arrangement. As might have been anticipated, his mother fully coincided with this judgment, and "was perfectly willing to give him up to the Lord." Thus every obstacle to his full devotion to the ministry, and to his going to America as the field of its exercise, was removed, and his decision was accordingly made to emigrate at the earliest opportunity.

Happy in the decision which freed him from suspense, and introduced him into the definite course of his life, he was all aflame with zeal for the work which lay before him. "My peace flows as a river, and my heart exults to reflect that in a few months I may be permitted to preach Christ crucified to the poor blacks of Maryland." He could find no figures so adequate to express his ardor as that of the racer restless for the course, or the soldier in the battle eager for the conflict. This ardor, while it may not have been wholly void of the adventurous element which springs from the prospect of strange and hazardous enterprise, was nourished by the closest contact with the great heart of the Redeemer, and in the one simple purpose to save perishing men. He breathed constantly for entire deadness to the world and the spirit of true holiness, evidently regarding his mission as one of utter self-renunciation in the pursuit of the divine glory. "Although privations and persecutions or shipwreck may await me, I feel strong in the Lord, determined to obey His will at all hazards." Such a young man was fit to follow a Coke, an Asbury, and even a Paul, over the sea in the sublime work of bringing continents to God. "I must be a man of one work—dead to the world, and alive to Christ."

The 28th of March, 1825, was finally definitely fixed upon as the day of departure for America. The last days and hours were spent in preaching, visits, farewells, and preparations. The little brig *Orient* weighed anchor at the time appointed, and bore away westward with her devout and expectant passenger. The long voyage was not idle or irksome; the whole of its time was diligently consumed in close study and multifarious reading; in meditating and maturing plans of usefulness. He thoroughly digested such works as Bishop Watson's *Apologies*, Mason on *Self-Knowledge*, Jenyn's *Views of the Internal Evidences of Christianity*, Lord Lyttleton's *Arguments for Christianity*, Baxter's *Gildas Salvianus* and *Saint's Rest*, and Butler's

Analogy. He preached to the seamen as occasion offered, distributed tracts, and otherwise labored among them. What is most striking, however, was the constancy of his devotions, and the watchfulness he exercised over his own spirit. "I have been reflecting upon Baxter's warning of settling any where short of heaven, or reposing our souls to rest on any thing below God. Ah! how little do I think of this. This deceitful heart would fain set up its rest—not, indeed, in riches, honors, etc., but in creature love, a Gospel Church, gracious ordinances. This will not do. They are the means, not the rest itself. This is the ingenious device of Satan, by which we are seduced into a species of spiritual idolatry. Strive, O my soul, to consider thyself as a pilgrim in this wilderness, and rest in naught but God!"

Just before landing, retarded by calms, he took advantage of the smooth sea and quiet waiting to re-examine the motives which led him to America. "This is no womanish employ; this ministerial work is no fine theory of fancy. It requires all the firmness, courage, perseverance, zeal, faith of the veteran soldier. Therefore, I must fix my principles, and draw them from the fountain of all wisdom. I bless God my soul can calmly rejoice in the prospect, and yield all up to the will and direction of God." "Now, then, in the strength of the Lord, I will go forth to the Lord's work in this my adopted country." Would that more young men entering upon the divine apostleship could have an "Arabia" of three or more months, or even years, on shipboard or elsewhere such as he had!

On Sunday, May 16, 1825, the *Orient* sailed up the Delaware Bay and River. Mr. Cookman was sorry to fall short of reaching Philadelphia in time for the services of the sanctuary; but he had so drilled himself to make the best of circumstances, that he found compensation in secret communion with God and in thoughts of friends afar. He wrote to a friend: "This voyage has been profitable, both in an intellectual and spiritual

point of view. I have been grounding myself in the grand principles of the Gospel. \* \* \* I have preached several times to this most wicked crew, and I have been blessed to the captain's good, who is resolved to turn over a new leaf. Patience has had its perfect work. \* \* \* I have found it good to lay my will at the Redeemer's feet. \* \* \* I have had painful views of the depravity of this corrupt heart, and this has stimulated me particularly to plead for the whole image and purity of Christ, so that the fire of divine love might devour all the grossness of sense and sin. \* \* \* Here then we are on the Delaware. I regret that I can not assemble the crew and passengers for public worship, as the pilot keeps all the former in working the vessel up the river. I felt melancholy this morning in looking on shore and beholding nature in all its bloom, the sun careering in the firmament, and then thinking, 'Ah! the people of God are now repairing to His holy temple to worship at His feet.' Nevertheless, I retired to my little cabin, and the Lord visited the temple of my heart, and spoke graciously and comfortably to His poor servant. I have renewed my missionary covenant. I am the Lord's: the same great principles which called me forth remain with augmented force; I go wherever He commands."

## CHAPTER II.

### THE REV. GEORGE G. COOKMAN IN AMERICA.—THE BIRTH OF ALFRED.

MR. COOKMAN was cordially received by the Methodists of Philadelphia, among whom he lived and labored as a local preacher, in connection with St. George's Church, until the following spring. He was incessant in labors, not only in preaching as opportunity offered, but visiting the sick, the prisons, and hospitals. He also organized a class of young persons, which included among its members John McClintock, Charles Whitacre, and William and Leonard Gilder, all of whom subsequently became ministers of the Gospel. During a protracted sickness of Mr. William Barnes, the preacher in charge, he supplied the pulpit of St. George's.

At the session of the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1826, he was appointed to Kensington and St. John's churches, Philadelphia. Falling thus softly into the regular ministry did not suit either the design or the wishes of the young hero, whose soul was burning for its mission to the Africans. He had left England to convert the negroes, and it was not to his mind to become a pastor amid the ease and refinements of civilized life. He was patient, however, and sought constantly, in the utmost self-denial, the guidance of God's Spirit and of His Church. On his twenty-sixth birthday he expressed himself thus: "It was the voice of the Spirit which first called my attention to Africa. I have from a child commiserated the injured negro; and for years prior to this my missionary feelings sympathized with them in common with the heathen world. Under the workings of the Spirit on this

subject, I came to the conclusion to offer myself as a missionary to the African colony at Mesurado. The conviction I strove against for some time, until the conflict became overwhelmingly painful and distressing. In this situation I called upon Mr. Bacon, one of the first agents to the colony, who informed me that there was a loud call for a Methodist missionary, and that the field was white unto the harvest. After solemn prayer to God, I believed, according to the light given, it was my duty to go to Bishop George, and lay the matter before him, state my convictions, views, and feelings. When this resolution was once formed, I felt instant inward peace. I went to New York and had an interview with Bishop George, when he stated that he had often wished we had an African missionary, and approved of the design; at the same time, he advised me to take no definitive step until the close of the year. \* \* \* Upon a fair statement of the case, it appears my way is not clearly opened to the African field. And as the practical decision is connected with such deep responsibility, it would not be advisable to move until the way be very clear. Bishop George thinks it appears probable that in the ensuing Conference year a very extensive field of missionary labor may be opened among the blacks on this side of the water, more so than could possibly be obtained in Africa. The agent is clearly of the opinion that a white missionary can benefit the general cause most efficiently by his labors here—at least for the present. I feel my mind much at rest; I have done all that appeared to be my duty; I have endeavored to follow the leadings of Providence, for I have good cause to watch over and be jealous of my own spirit. If no other result flow from this than bringing my views before the mind of the bishop, perhaps a point of no inconsiderable importance is gained to the great cause. The heart of the benevolent old man seems warmed with love divine to the poor Africans." Immediately in this connection, he adds, "I had a good day, particularly in bear-

ing a decided testimony for the glorious doctrine of Christian perfection. Oh! my God, hasten the period when sin shall expire and grace shall reign. In visiting the sick, I have found assistance and power, but yet the habit of my mind is not sufficiently spiritual. Let me plead and strive for a pure intention, a sanctified affection, and a holy walk. O Lord, help me to remember that for myself, as a follower of Christ, as well as a messenger of God, I must answer."

The persistence with which Mr. Cookman adhered to the original purpose he had in coming to America is truly admirable, as not only showing the depth of the conviction, but also the integrity of his heart and the force of his will. His preaching and speaking in Philadelphia had produced a strong impression, and his fame as an orator began already to be acknowledged. His ministrations were universally acceptable, and very much sought. There was a demand in the churches for eloquent preachers; and the brilliant career of Summerfield had prepared the people to appreciate thoroughly a young Englishman who promised in any degree to take the place of that seraphic man. It must have required in Cookman just such close heart searchings and earnest prayers as his memoranda reveal to keep him firm to Africa. It is not without significance that he yearned for deadness to the world and for increased spirituality. The record in regard to Christian perfection in this relation is truly valuable, as showing its vital relation to missionary work, and equally so as exhibiting in the father thus early in his ministry the fast hold he had taken of that doctrine of Methodism which was subsequently to become the distinguishing feature of the life and ministry of his son.

While actively devoting himself to regular ministerial duty, Mr. Cookman's efforts in the direction of Africa were not relinquished. "Some time ago I made an offer of myself to the Colonization Society to go out to Liberia as a Methodist missionary at my own expense. I am sorry to find that an extract



from my letter has been published in several of the papers, inasmuch as I could have wished to go about the matter without noise and pomp of observation. \* \* \* I feel resigned to do or to suffer what the Lord may appoint—if He say go, I am ready; if He say remain, I will remain and be submissive. I feel the kindlings of God's love, and am looking for a deeper and a holier baptism."

His cherished desire, however, was doomed to disappointment. God had other work for him to do. As the sequel proved, instead of going as a missionary to convert the heathen—possibly to leave his bones after a few months on the sands of Africa—he was, by his advanced ideas and persuasive eloquence, to plant the seeds of missionary labors which were destined to spring up in ever-widening harvests to the end of time. Methodist missions were just then starting, and they needed in their first feeble beginnings such a heroic, fiery advocate as this brilliant and devout young man. He was not to be a missionary, as he earnestly and sincerely intended, pure and simple; but he was to be a creator of missionaries, who, in unbroken succession, should go from the American continent to all parts of the world. He was here, too, to found a family which was subsequently to be identified in all movements adapted to advance the salvation of the race; and, in the apostolic zeal of noble sons, was to project his influence into the far-reaching future of his adopted country. The Almighty concealed from His servant at the time His full design, as he had done from many of His chosen ones before; but go to Africa he could not. His way was blocked. As was natural, the defeat of a purpose so long fixed upon, and which had wrought in him as an all-absorbing and assimilating force, could not but cause a painful disappointment. He did not hesitate to own it.

On November 6th he wrote: "Abraham went forth at the command of Jehovah, 'not knowing whither he went,' and Luther, Wesley, Coke, Asbury, were first thrust out, and led along

by a path which they could not have imagined. Had it, for instance, been told Wesley when he was in Oxford at my age, that he should be the head of a large body of Christians ; that he should approve and employ lay preachers, and stand up in the market-places and preach the Gospel without book, he would have thought the teller mad. And it has appeared to me, after impartial investigation of Church history, that the real, extensive revivals of vital godliness in every age have not been by pre-concerted design on the part of the instruments, but by a series of causes unsuspected and uncontrolled by human agency, but directed by Him who has ascended on high and received gifts for men. It is a series of reflections like these which reconcile me to my present situation and circumstances. I had certainly resolved to go to Africa, so far as any volition of the human will can decide upon any question ; and I confess with shame that when, from the statement of the agent of the Colonization Society and the advice of Bishop George, my way seemed blocked up, my heart rose in rebellion, as though the great purpose of my soul was frustrated. But the great question now is, Was the purpose of the Lord frustrated? Is it not rather in progress of fulfillment? For if one part of our purpose be the preparation of instruments, then such a disappointment to my proud self-will may be the best preparation in convincing me of my imperfect judgment and frailty of purpose."

With such reflections as these, Mr. Cookman reconciled himself to what was now evidently the final subversion of his early plan, and his permanent settlement in America as an itinerant Methodist preacher. With a jealous watchfulness over his heart, he did not fail to see in the thwarting of his scheme the deep need he had of thorough proving in his religious experience, and of much correction in his natural tendencies. He knew himself too well not to know that impulsiveness was a defect in his character. "The thought and the action are with me nearly synonymous, and when a thing is designed, my bones

ache within me and my flesh cries out till it is done. I am aware this is a defect, leading me to speak too fast and to act too fast. It was this very thing which plunged Dr. Coke into so many perplexities, and gave Wesley such an advantage over him as a character. I always need a sober counselor at my elbow to talk the matter twice over."

Thus did he carefully guard himself, seeing in his worst disappointments the providential means of perfecting his graces, and using the things which he suffered as the things he most needed. Whether justly or not, it is common for God's most conscientious servants to think they discern weakness where often lies their greatest strength. It was the ardent temperament inherited from the mother which was the real spring of Mr. Cookman's mental power; nor would it have done too far to restrain it. Ordinarily, the great instruments of Providence have rough and sharp points, and are not toned down to exceeding smoothness.

In February, 1827, Mr. Cookman returned to England on a brief visit. He was married to Miss Mary Barton, Doncaster, Yorkshire, on the 2d of April, 1827, and immediately left with his bride for America. Miss Barton was a young lady of excellent family, of superior personal endowments, and of exemplary piety. In marrying Mr. Cookman, she not only wedded him as her husband, but also as God's minister, and devoted herself, with the utmost simplicity and in entire sympathy with him, to the work which absorbed his soul and was to employ his life. The comforts and luxuries of an affluent English home were abandoned with the pure intent of becoming a true helpmeet to the man of her heart, the accredited ambassador of Christ in bringing the world a conquest to redeeming love. Mrs. Cookman still lives at an advanced age, a witness to the power of the same self-sacrificing zeal with which she originally left her father's house.

In the spring of 1827 Mr. Cookman was appointed to the

Lancaster Circuit. This charge embraced Lancaster, Columbia, and Reading, three of the most important towns in Pennsylvania. It was a large and laborious charge, being what was called a six weeks' circuit, in the arrangement of which he preached at each church in the circuit but once in six weeks. His residence was at Columbia, situated on the Susquehanna River.

Here Alfred was born, January 4, 1828. He was physically a healthful and remarkably well-proportioned child. The mother, as she clasped her first-born to her heart, felt mingling with her maternal and wifely joy a sense of disappointment in the probable curtailment of her active participation in the pastoral work of her husband, and further postponing, if not entirely defeating, the missionary purpose which still possessed both husband and wife. She had come to America with great designs in her soul; and now that the mission of a mother opened distinctly before her, the enthusiasm of her spirit was not a little sobered. Tending a babe in the narrow confines of the nursery, did not quite comport with that brilliant apostolic career which she had marked out for herself as the companion of a Christian missionary. But God gave her a happy thought. "Alfred was to be her Solomon to build the temple which she in becoming a mother could not rear." She was reconciled to her calling, and henceforth gave herself to the training of this son as the main work of her life. With the persuasion that he was given to her of God, she consecrated him from birth to the sacred ministry, to be a builder of God's Temple. All her thoughts, feelings, and plans for the child grouped about this central idea, and the idea in turn stamped its character and complexion on all she did.

There were two classes of women whom the Romans loved to honor—the few virgins who devoted themselves in perpetual virginity to keeping alive the vestal fires, and the mothers of heroes. Mrs. Cookman accepted the traditional Anglo-Saxon doctrine that there is, strictly speaking, no higher mission for

woman than the function of a matron. She had talents and graces which would have made her useful and famous in any sphere; but she saw with womanly instinct and true maternal feeling that her greatest usefulness and utmost fame—as far as she could consider fame—would be found in losing herself in her son, in spending her time and energies upon him, in fashioning the man who was to stand a man among men. Surely to train men—to offer to sons the care, instruction, and sympathy which they need, and to maintain over them a controlling influence through the successive periods of their development—is the worthiest ambition which can fill a woman's heart. Such was Mrs. Cookman's ambition. The sequel confirms the wisdom of her choice. She was a true companion of her husband, and as far as practicable aided him not only by her affectionate sympathies and judicious counsels in his ministry, but also did all she could privately and publicly, as a godly lady, to promote the work of religion; but pre-eminently her realm was her house, and her work rather to form preachers than to preach. Mr. Cookman's duties on his circuit kept him much from home, and threw the young wife and mother upon her own resources. This could not be otherwise than a trial to her refined nature, but she found comfort in the companionship of her child, and in the constantly augmenting success and fame of her husband. He was universally popular. At Reading, where there was then no Methodist church, he preached in the court-house to crowds, in which were to be regularly seen the foremost lawyers and men of business in the town.

I give here an extract from a letter received about this time from the father of Mr. Cookman, in which touching reference is made to the two Alfreds:

“HULL, February 11, 1828.

“DEAR GEORGE AND MARY,—Our last letters sent by vessel from this port would bring the mournful intelligence of the loss of our dearest Alfred, with many particulars respecting his last moments and his tranquil exit. These events, when brought back to our recollection, form new associations

and open afresh the wounds in our bleeding hearts. We trust, however, you will be supported by the good hand of God under this irreparable loss, by the full assurance that now he is released from all his suffering, and his happy spirit is admitted into the presence of his Redeemer, and is associated with the spirits of just men made perfect. This assurance should moderate our sorrows; and, though we can not but feel as his near relatives, our Christian principles should check an excess of suffering, because we are assured it was the good pleasure of God to take him from us, and he is much happier, better provided for, and taken greater care of now by his Heavenly Father than he possibly could have been by us. \* \* \*

"On the receipt of your last, bearing date the 7th of January, our feelings were deeply interested in receiving the pleasing intelligence of the birth of your son, and we were delighted to find the name of Alfred should not become extinct in our family. May he exhibit a large share of his uncle's intellectual and moral character, and may his mental powers in due time become as vigorous and his person as likely to be robust. \* \* \* May you receive him as the gift of God, and while you gratefully acknowledge His supporting and sustaining hand, may you and the child be entirely consecrated to Him."

Was ever prayer more prediction? The desire of the grandfather for his second Alfred was entirely fulfilled, and in nothing more than his entire consecration to God. Who can compute the value to children of the faith of such parents and grandparents—a faith which connects them in their very infancy with the covenant that engages God to bestow special blessings upon the children of His people?

In the spring of 1828, Mr. Cookman was stationed at New Brunswick, N. J., which was then comprised, with all the State of New Jersey, in the Philadelphia Conference. While stationed here he made one of his earliest platform addresses, which immediately established his reputation with the community outside of his own denomination as a first-class orator. A correspondent of the *New York Observer*, who was present on the occasion, wrote of that speech subsequent to Mr. Cookman's death: "None who were present will forget the powerful impression made by him at a meeting of the Young Men's Bible Society, in New Brunswick, N. J., in the year 1828, when a

Methodist preacher of small stature, almost unknown in the community, having been invited for denomination's sake to speak on the occasion, arose and electrified the audience with an address that suddenly bore away the palm from all competitors. It reminded one of the brilliant *début* of Summerfield at the anniversary of the American Bible Society in New York. None could appreciate the force of that speech who was unacquainted with the charm of the speaker's manner. Besides the simplicity, vivacity, and variety of the address, there was an *appropriateness*, both in point of time and place, that secured the undissembled admiration of his enlightened audience.

"His subject was Christian union combined with denominational action. His mind, rich in bold and natural metaphors, drew a sketch more impressive than the most profound and elaborate argumentation could be, especially when addressed to a popular assembly of various creeds. He undertook to marshal the spiritual army. He considered the Methodists as the mounted volunteers, hovering on the frontiers; the Presbyterians, 'who love an open field,' as the infantry, occupying the centre in solid columns, and presenting to the enemy a series of impregnable squares; he stationed the Baptists along the rivers and lakes, to win laurels in their peculiar warfare; and Episcopalians were to man the garrisons, inspect the magazines, and direct the batteries. 'But who shall be our artillery men? I propose, sir,' said Mr. Cookman, 'that we commit this very important department to our brethren of the Dutch Reformed Church; and, sir, may they acquit themselves with a valor worthy of their ancestors when the proud flag of De Witt swept the sea and the thunder of Van Tromp shook the ocean!' He then warned them of a spy in the camp, 'old and gray in iniquity, toothless, crooked, and unsavory;' and proceeded to draw a most graphic picture of Bigotry. He hoped that if the Methodist cavalry caught sight of him they would ride him down; that the Presbyterians would bayonet him; the Baptists drown him;

the Episcopalians, if he approached their garrison, open a double-flanked battery upon him, and the Dutch Reformed greet him with a round of artillery. 'Let him,' said he, 'die the death of a spy, without military honors, and, after he has been gibbeted for a season, let his body be given to the Quakers, and let them bury him deep and in silence. May God grant his miserable ghost may never revisit this world of trouble !' "

It is easy to imagine, as this brief sketch is read, the well-nigh overwhelming effect which this speech from a comparative stranger and a rather unpromising young man must have had upon the audience. Such a picture was a creation worthy the genius of a Bunyan. The ability to sustain a series of comparisons at such length, reaching the requirements of allegory, with so much of genuine truthfulness and humor, showed in the young preacher a high artistic power.

In 1829 Mr. Cookman was appointed to Talbot Circuit, Talbot County, Maryland. He had dreamed over in England of one day preaching the Gospel to the blacks of Maryland, and now his opportunity had come. By long brooding over the sufferings of the poor negroes, he had transferred their chains to himself, and he longed to be among them and to do what he could to ameliorate their condition. His circuit extended through the whole county, and included both the white and colored population adhering to the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was cordially received by the warm-hearted Southerners, among whom he found many English traits which did not fail to make him feel at home, and did much to relieve the pain which the presence of slavery caused him. Mr. Cookman never found closer friends than among the devout people of this section. Methodism had taken early and strong hold upon the community, and embraced, with slight exceptions, the staple intelligence and enterprise of the whole region ; the people lived in simple affluence, and were ever ready to lavish upon their



preacher all the choicest gifts of air, land, and water. They received Mr. Cookman, his wife and children—for by this time Alfred had a brother—with the warmest hospitality. One gentleman, Mr. Samuel Harrison, who owned a large plantation stretching in a narrow neck out into the Chesapeake Bay, took them to his own house. The minister's coming to each successive appointment every four weeks was an ovation—the whole country, whites and blacks alike, turned out to hear him. And it was not because the people had not been used hitherto to good preaching—they had had it from the beginning of their religious history; they therefore knew how to appreciate it in Mr. Cookman.

The celebrated colored orator, Frederick Douglass, in his book entitled "My Bondage and my Freedom," p. 198, tells us that the Rev. George Cookman took an interest in the temporal and spiritual welfare of the slaves. He writes: "Our souls and our bodies were alike sacred in his sight; and he really had a good deal of genuine anti-slavery feeling mingled with his colonization ideas. There was not a slave in our neighborhood that did not love and venerate Mr. Cookman. It was pretty generally believed that he had been chiefly instrumental in bringing one of the largest slaveholders—Mr. Samuel Harrison—to emancipate all his slaves; and, indeed, the general impression was that Mr. Cookman had labored faithfully with slaveholders, whenever he met them, to induce them to emancipate their bondmen, and that he did this as a religious duty. When this good man was at our house, we were all sure to be called in to prayers in the morning; and he was not slow in making inquiries as to the state of our minds, nor in giving us a word of exhortation and encouragement. Great was the sorrow of all the slaves when this faithful preacher of the Gospel was removed from the circuit."

Mr. Cookman's custom was to hold special services apart for the colored people, to which they flocked in great numbers.

He was regarded with increasing favor both by masters and servants.

But what, meanwhile, is our little Alfred doing? Playing often, no doubt—as many others before and since who became good and great have done—with the little negroes near the “quarters,” or in front of the “big house,” or on the sandy beach, or chasing butterflies over the fields, or possibly at “holding meeting.” His mother says of him at this very early age: “The tone of his mind had always a religious tendency, and before he was four years of age he imitated all the services of the Church. He would sometimes collect a crowd of colored children around him, and in his childish way preach to them about the necessity of being good, and then they would go to heaven and live with Jesus; but if they were bad boys and girls they would go to hell, and be burnt in a great hot fire. His father traveled a circuit on the eastern shore of Maryland about this time, which brought Alfred in contact with numberless opportunities to show the bias of his mind. He would ask for a bowl of water, and request the servants of the family to come and be baptized. Many of them would come and kneel down as devoutly as though they felt the reality of the ordinance; and he, taking the water in his hand, would say, ‘Bob Trot, I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. God bless you, and make you a good man.’ Then Bob and others who went through the same process would rise up from their knees and go forth as though they had performed a religious duty. So Alfred would go through with all the services of the sanctuary in his boyish way with as much gravity and decorum as though he were already ordained, or set aside for this special work—directing men and women to be good and do good.”

It is not uncommon for boys, who never become preachers or much of any thing—for children are busy little artists, painting with the brush of sympathy on the canvas of their souls

the real life which passes before them—to do just what Alfred did; and yet there is that in the ways of every child which shows the natural bent, and to some degree forecasts the after life. Goethe's painful sensitiveness to the presence of ugliness or deformity while quite a baby was indicative of that fine, delicate organization which is the constitutional basis of the poet. His mother had the eye to see it, and with skillful hand she guided the divine instinct by bringing to its nurture agreeable objects, and gently inciting it with narratives of the wondrous and beautiful; otherwise Germany had not had her greatest poet, nor the world one of its greatest educators. To every mother her child has an individuality, and she can discern in it the hidden germ which in the flower is to render its maturity distinct and beautiful. The difference in mothers is the power properly to direct this original faculty. Fewer children would perish in the promise if there were more mothers who knew how to cherish and train the natural and gracious endowment. Mrs. Cookman had one desire for her boy, and she sedulously watched every hint in his childhood which pointed in the direction of its fulfillment. She hailed every such indication as a precursor of his future, since it had been impressed on her mind from his birth that he was to do the work that was in her heart to do for the Lord. But she was a wise mother, looking for results, however good and desirable, to follow only upon the use of the proper means. She did not expect devout wishes and devout prayers to mould the character of Alfred without corresponding effort to rear him aright. Great and good men do not grow, like the rank weeds, untended, but, like the lovely and fragrant flowers, by culture. Here's a memorandum from the mother on this point: "Alfred was very correct in all his deportment, obedient to his parents, very truthful, and conscientious. He was, of course, watched over with more than ordinary care. Parental vigilance was ever on the alert to detect and correct any thing that might mar the little

tender plant." Yet there was not excess of training, nor morbid stimulating. "His father early impressed him with the idea, 'Play when you play, and work when you work.'"

It was hardly to be expected that the social scenes by which this child was surrounded at that period could permanently affect his disposition ; yet he ever after loved this country and its people, and to this day there is no name fuller of sweet odor in the whole region than that of Alfred Cookman. It is well known, too, that he cherished throughout life a great love for the black race. He had romped, wept, and laughed—nay, even prayed, with the colored boys ; and a common feeling, so self-asserting in children, had taught him in the simple and innocent sports of childhood the great truth of the oneness of humanity. In the very lap of the warm, unselfish nursing of which the negro woman is capable, associated with the strange and weird stories, and the low, soft melodies, the earnest and implicit trustfulness with which she mingles all her work, he received impressions at this susceptible age which ever endeared the colored people to him.

### CHAPTER III.

#### THE GROWING FAME OF REV. GEORGE G. COOKMAN.—THE CHILDHOOD OF ALFRED.

How far Mr. Cookman felt himself successful in his mission to the colored people does not appear. He found obstacles in promoting their liberation. He was useful to them, as he was also to the white population; but his talents were soon in demand in the great city, and he was accordingly at his next appointment assigned to St. George's, Philadelphia. It showed the confidence of the bishop, and of the people of St. George's, that he was sent so soon to the charge where on his first arrival he had joined and labored as a local preacher. On the removal of the family to the city, Alfred, with his brother George, was placed at school under the care of Miss Ann Thomas, a member of the Society of Friends, who was quite celebrated for her skill in teaching. He remained two years under her care, and made rapid progress in the elementary branches of education. She took very special interest both in him and his little brother, and expressed great sorrow when they left her. In a note to the mother she wrote: "I give my testimony respecting thy dear boys that I have enjoyed great consolation in their company. While endeavoring to inform their little minds, and give them a knowledge of literature, they have been obedient and attentive, very innocent, and strict to truth, and in almost every thing what my heart could wish. Tell them to remember Miss Ann, who dearly loves them, and wishes them everlasting happiness."

I presume Alfred, at the age of five to seven, did not get very deep into what his loving teacher calls "literature." His

instruction in the rudiments of knowledge was probably thorough, and imparted with the exactness and kindliness for which the Friends are remarkable. This godly lady's spirit undoubtedly affected him as much as the lessons she taught, and may in some measure account for the great favor in which he always held her people—a favor which was as warmly reciprocated by them.

Subsequently to the two years at St. George's, Philadelphia, Mr. Cookman spent one year at Newark, N. J. His reputation had reached Baltimore, Md., then and now a stronghold of Methodism in America. The intercourse of the citizens of the eastern shore of Maryland with their commercial metropolis could not fail to bring to the attention of the leading Methodists of the city the brilliant talents of the preacher. Mr. Cookman had himself visited Baltimore, and preached in its churches. There arose an urgent demand for his services, and he was accordingly transferred to the Baltimore Conference in the spring of 1834, and appointed to the city station, which then included all the Methodist Episcopal churches of the city except those on Fell's Point. Mr. Cookman was associated with Reverends William Hamilton, James Sewell, Thomas Thornton, and James H. Brown, and preached in rotation with them on the circuit plan. His ministrations excited the utmost enthusiasm, and crowds filled the churches to hear him. His eloquent preaching and platform addresses, faithful pastoral labors, devotion to Sunday-schools, and magical social powers—baptized as all his faculties and exercises were by the Holy Ghost—gave him a position which has seldom been equaled and never excelled by any pastor in that city. His influence helped to sustain the position Methodism had already acquired; and greatly assisted to push it forward to the pre-eminence which it has ever since held. The Methodists of that day who still survive scattered among the several churches never weary of talking of his power, and remember and narrate with dis-

tinctness, special passages in his sermons and speeches which thrilled the congregations.

On one Sabbath evening, Mr. Cookman was preaching to a dense audience at Light Street, and, as sometimes happened with him, and happens to all men, however able, if they are extemporaneous speakers, he had no freedom in his sermon, and evidently did not succeed as he wished ; but, with a fertility of resource which seldom failed him, he began an exhortation as he proceeded to the consciences of his hearers, which was so effective for direct and fiery appeal as to subdue all hearts. A prominent citizen, who had been attracted by his fame, but was about to leave the house disappointed at his sermon, was so wrought upon by the exhortation as to be awakened and converted.

Among the vast multitudes who hung upon the eloquent lips of Mr. Cookman at this time was a little boy of seven years of age, not unknown to him. Alfred was no indifferent hearer to such life-like expositions and delineations as the father gave from Sunday to Sunday. The intelligence of the lad had sufficiently dawned to appreciate a method of teaching which was so well suited to awaken and chain the attention of the young. His conscience was growing with his other faculties, and now began to assert itself. The seeds of truth cast into the soil of his heart were beginning to swell, though the full time for them to burst into a definitive new life had not yet come. Referring to his early experience, he has himself recorded : " I shall never cease to be grateful for the instruction and example of a faithful father and an affectionate mother. At this moment I can not call up a period in my life, even in my earliest childhood, when I had not the fear of God before my eyes. When about seven years of age, I persuaded my parents to let me attend a Watch-Night service. It was held in Old Exeter Street Church, in the city of Baltimore. My father preached on the second coming of Christ. Thinking that perhaps the

end of the world was just at hand, I realized for the first time my unpreparedness for the trying scenes of the judgment, and trembled in the prospect. I date my awakenings from that time."

With many of the families of his charge in Baltimore Mr. Cookman formed close intimacies, and with none more so than the family of the late Mr. Joshua Creamer. I extract the following incident, written by him in these happy days in the album of Mrs. Jane Creamer Taylor, then an unmarried daughter at home. It is beautiful in itself, and indicative of the devout and humble spirit which animated his ministry:

"It was on a fine Sabbath evening in the month of June, 1821, that three youthful pilgrims visited the tomb of Wesley's father in Epworth churchyard. They gathered from the overhanging beech-tree a little bark as a memento of the past; and, while standing on that very tombstone from which John Wesley had preached to listening thousands eighty years before, they solemnly invoked a blessing from the God of the Church, and determined to follow Wesley as he followed Christ. One of these youths is now a missionary in Upper Canada, the second is a useful preacher of the Gospel in England, and the third the writer of this short article.

"'Unto me who am less than the least of all saints is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.'

"GEORGE G. COOKMAN.

"Baltimore, 9th of February, 1835."

Another leaf from this album will appear in its place, illustrative of the reverence and affection which was even then springing up in the son's heart for the father.

The time had now come when Alfred's academic training was fairly to begin. Since leaving the charge of the gentle Friend in Philadelphia, he had been mainly dependent upon home instruction; but now, in the providence of God, he was to be placed in the most favorable circumstances for a boy's education. Mr. Cookman, for reasons which were sufficient to the authorities of the Church, was removed in 1836 from Baltimore City to the town of Carlisle, Pa. At first glance, such an exercise of episcopal supervision might appear unaccounta-



ble—certainly without justification. To remove a man so well adapted to mould great masses from the centre of population and power, when his usefulness was constantly augmenting, to a quiet, rural town, where he could at most have only a limited community to influence, might seem at once strange and unreasonable. But the highest wisdom teaches that influence is not always to be measured by the number of minds which it reaches, but by the quality of the minds, and the degree with which it affects them. As in matter, so in mind, a given force may effect greater results by being exerted on a small spot than by being spread over a wide surface. It is one of the economies of Nature to gather up and concentrate her energies for the production of her most remarkable works.

There was reason enough for Mr. Cookman's removal to Carlisle. The Methodists of the Baltimore and Philadelphia Conferences had recently purchased from the Presbyterians Dickinson College, located at that borough, and had made it their educational centre. Once more, from the despair which was engendered by the ashes of Cokesbury and Light Lane, they had risen in hope, with a determined effort to found for their region an institution for the liberal training of young men. They had looked abroad through the Church, and had concentrated upon their new enterprise the best talents which Methodism could then afford, and from the West, East, and their own borders, had brought together Durbin, Caldwell, Emory, Allen, McClintock, and Roszell, all young men, instinct with literary enthusiasm, with denominational and professional pride. The selection of Carlisle as a location for the school may have been a mistake, but the choice of the Faculty was one of those rare successes which can only be explained by a guiding spirit in the Church. The Rev. J. P. Durbin had recently come from the West, with a high reputation for pulpit ability and administrative skill, and was put at the head of its management; Professor Merrit Caldwell, fresh from the walls of Bowdoin, brought

with him accurate scholarship and valued experience as a teacher; Professor W. H. Allen, also from Bowdoin, united rare physical and intellectual strength, which was disciplined and enriched alike by manual and mental toil; the youthful Professor Robert Emory had carried off the prizes at Columbia, New York City, and was probably one of the purest and most thoroughly furnished young men of the land; Professor John McClintock graduated from the Pennsylvania University in his teens, and was already regarded by all who knew him as a prodigy for the grasp and versatility of his talents and the fullness of his attainments; Mr. S. A. Roszell, from the halls of the first Methodist College of the West, at Augusta, Ky., was of a parent stock justly famed for its vigor, and possessed in his own right a reputation for depth and finish of culture.

There was never a happier combination in the grouping of men, who were destined very speedily to crystallize into a harmonious unity. They blended at once—thinking, feeling, working freely, with the most implicit interchange of principle, plan, and aim; and their joint labors began to tell in the college and at the remotest points of its patronizing territory. Methodist youths from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia, began to gather within its halls. These youths needed not only literary instruction, but also the ablest moral and spiritual care of which the Church was capable. The Conferences and the Faculty pledged themselves to the parents that the religion and morals of their sons should not suffer while under college oversight; and hence it was deemed reasonable that the ministry had no man whose powers were too great for Carlisle, or whose eloquence and piety could be more usefully employed than in inspiring and moulding young men for the future of the Church and the nation.

Mr. Cookman was accordingly sent to take the charge of the Church, composed of both town and college people. He was still a young man, in all the glow of youthful zeal, in the full

force of rapidly culminating talents, and with all the earnestness of an absorbing devotion to the single work of a Christian pastor. His task as a preacher was a most difficult and delicate one—to stand before a congregation constituted as congregations are in a college town. He must satisfy professors, entertain students, and edify tradespeople. Could any position require more genuine ability? There was Durbin before him—a natural Tecumseh in the pulpit, then in his prime, whose words from the same desk were not seldom like alternate ice and fire bolts crashing through the consciences of the hearers—there was Emory, exact, logical, and forcible—and McClintock, in the first flush of a round, graceful, and persuasive oratory. There too were the fastidious, hypercritical collegians of all classes, the hardest hearers; and, not least, the matter-of-fact outside business community; but the pastor was master of the situation, nothing appalled him; his commission was from God, and he faithfully fulfilled it. His influence over all classes was unique and perfect. In the pulpit, the parlor, the prayer-meeting, he was the acknowledged leader, and never was a ministry under like circumstances more productive of good. His trophies for the Cross were gathered from all these circles; young men were then and there converted through his preaching who have since become honored in all the walks of life.

But I must not forget our boy of nine summers, whose eyes opened upon these scenes in which his worthy father was so distinguished an actor. He also had come to college; and he equally, but in a different sense, was to be the companion of these classic men and their surroundings. Under such circumstances, in this focus of knowledge and piety, an impulse was to be imparted to him which was to determine his whole after-life. I know of few spots upon which Alfred could have fallen at this impressible age more suitable in all its adjuncts for his first formal entrance into school. Of the people about him, to whose constant association the office and personal worth of his father

would naturally introduce him, I have spoken ; but of the place itself and its environs much can be said. Carlisle has but little attractiveness in its immediate topography or in its artificial structure—a plain town, its only importance is as the civil and natural centre of a thrifty agricultural county, without any objects of taste whatever ; the outlying country is very beautiful. The Cumberland Valley, in which it lies, is broad and undulating, abounding in springs and streams ; its soil rich and productive, its whole bosom covered with fertile farms or luxuriant forests ; while in the distance on either side the North and South Mountains, spurs of the Alleghanies, rise into prominence and sweep along in unbroken succession, save here and there a gentle gap, and form, in their continuous, wavy outlines, one of the most agreeable prospects which can be offered to the eye. I doubt if old Carlisle, in England, after which it is named, possesses a more charming situation.

It can not be supposed that this physical beauty was without educational effect upon the ardent temperament of the boy, inclined as he was by his healthful nature to relish all sensuous delights. Indeed, the æsthetical sense born in him, and afterward so strongly marked in his intellectual development, and the devout reverence for God in works of nature always so prominent through his whole life, must have received from it an exciting and durable effect. A lad so reflective as he is represented from the very dawn of thought could not have been otherwise than most favorably influenced by habitual contact with scenes so simple and pleasing.

“ Not seldom from the uproar I retired  
Into a silent bay, or sportively  
Glanced sideways, leaving the tumultuous throng,”

might doubtless be said of him at this as well as later periods of his youth, and that not so much to elude his companions in play, as to gain for himself the quiet communion for which his thoughtful soul thirsted.

But enough of my fancy and a little of fact from Alfred's own hand. Fortunately one of his earliest letters has been preserved, and lies before me in his own handwriting. The composition must be regarded as creditable for a boy of ten years; not surprising, however, when the exercises he was then having in school and the constant care his mother gave him are taken into account. The penmanship already shows the indications of the beautiful chirography for which his later manuscripts are noted. It is to his grandfather, Cookman:

“CARLISLE, January 27, 1838.

“MY DEAR GRANDFATHER,—I have long been thinking that it was my duty to write a letter to one for whom I desire to cherish the warmest affection, and to whom we are already under very great obligations. \* \* \*

“First of all I must congratulate you on your very honorable election to the high office of mayor to the important and flourishing town of Kingston-upon-Hull. Although we boys are Americans and Republicans in our feelings, yet we are not insensible to the honor attached to offices conferred by the votes of the people. \* \* \*

“I am very happy to say that dear mother's health continues very good. Fortunately for her, the winter up to this time has been unusually mild; indeed, the last week has rather resembled the month of April than January, so that she has been able to go out three or four times a week in the middle of the day and see her friends. Indeed, ever since she was in Baltimore her health has been gradually improving, and long may she live to be what she has truly been, the best of mothers.

“About Christmas we had a slight fall of snow, which rendered the roads for a few days in good condition for sleighing, which is the favorite winter pastime in these parts. Almost every farmer has a good sleigh, and when you have a couple of stout horses and a plentiful supply of thick buffalo skins to keep out the frost, it is the finest riding in the world. Sometimes the citizens will put a great Pennsylvania wagon on runners, and yoke four or five good horses, and then thirty or forty ladies and gentlemen can enjoy themselves right well. Even we boys have our little sleigh, and it would amuse you to see myself and George going at full speed, with Frank on the sleigh, holding little John on his knee.

“It becomes my duty to give some account of our progress at the Grammar School. This is a large, elegant square building, three stories high, opposite the front gate of the college. The basement floor is occupied by

the steward's apartments, the second by two spacious, lofty rooms, above fifty feet square, and divided by two folding-doors into the English and Classical departments. Mr. Roszell has the superintendence, and is a very strict man indeed. Mr. Hey is an Englishman, and is said to be one of the best grammarians in the country. Mr. Cary and Mr. Bunting, under whose care I am at present, are the assistants. Since I entered the school I have gone four or five times through the English grammar, and twice through the Latin, having committed all the rules to memory. George has gone twice through his English grammar, and is now beginning Latin. I have been twice through Tytler's Universal History; I am nearly through my Latin reader and geography, and have drawn a few maps. In arithmetic I am as far as the last section of discount. Besides all this, I have constant exercises in parsing, composition, and elocution. I have written four or five original essays, and declaimed before the school three times, and frequently, besides three or four other tasks, have to write out an entire Latin verb in an evening. So you may believe we are not idle. Indeed, they work us very hard. Mr. Roszell says it will keep us out of mischief, and father says it is the very thing; but, indeed, I really do not know how I should have got along if it had not been for the help of my dear mother, who usually gives her evenings to the purpose.

"In conclusion, allow me to say that we hope the deep interest and liberality you have manifested for our education will be met by a corresponding application and improvement on our part, so that you will not have cause to be ashamed of us.

"Father, mother, George, Francis, William Wilberforce, and John Emory all unite in great affection to yourself, uncles, aunts, and cousins Robinson and Holmes, for whose welfare, present and eternal, we are taught daily to pray to Almighty God.

Your affectionate grandson,

"ALFRED COOKMAN."

To this the father adds a postscript:

"The subjoined is a Saturday afternoon exercise which Alfred, at my instance, has written for your inspection, and at your request. You will remember he is only just ten years old, and has been subjected to the interruption of the children, which has given a hurried and careless air to his writing. But the Right Worshipful, the Mayor of Hull and Admiral of the Humber, will treat the American boy magnanimously, especially as it is a first effort at epistolary writing.

"Your *Advertiser* came safe to hand. Your 'inauguration speech' is going the rounds to Philadelphia and Baltimore to friends Suddards and Plaskitt. It was in the college reading-room for a few days, and was admired by

the Faculty and students for its moderation and propriety. Things look squally here both North and South. Canada will not easily settle on the New York frontier. I am solicited to go to Washington, Philadelphia, and Charleston, but will leave it with the Episcopacy. The Lord will provide. Accept our love."

Alfred's "first effort at epistolary writing" certainly needs no apology. If it chances to fall under the eye of any "grammar-school" student of that day, its references to the "fine, elegant square building," and to Mr. Roszell as "a very strict man indeed," will be duly appreciated. Mr. Roszell did not believe in sparing the rod; but whether he ever had cause to administer it to our boy or no, I have not learned. Alfred was studious and obedient; but it must not be supposed he was a saint from the cradle. The moral heroism of his character was not without its physical and mental basis; and possibly, but for the timely training of judicious parents, the metal of his disposition would have betrayed him into many of the rudenesses of other boys. Twice in his life he was whipped—when four years old, for throwing a book at his mother, and, when seven or eight, for fighting with his brother George. Was there ever a boy who didn't enjoy once in a while the exercise of a little power over his younger and weaker brother? How else can he show his muscle? And who so fair a subject for Alfred's muscle as little George? It was a good thing in the mother that she flogged the darling even at four and seven, otherwise "her Solomon" would likely never have been, and her temple to God never have been reared. Not the least lesson taught him while he was learning "literature" from the fair friend, was this whipping-lesson from his mother. But how like a sweet melody breathes the testimony of the dear mother to the fidelity of her boy, even thus young in years: "His boyhood was spent pretty much like that of other boys, in the sports and occupations of that period of his young life. Obedience to parental authority was a prominent characteristic from his earliest years. Prompt-

ness in the performance of duty was another beautiful trait. Industry, patience, and perseverance were very early brought into requisition, and served a good purpose in laying a foundation for the successive periods of after life." In this letter, too, is seen already the dawn of his thorough Americanism, and of his faculty for description. The sleighs and sleigh-rides of a Pennsylvania winter, the sled with himself and George in the harness, "going at full speed, with Frank on the sleigh holding little John on his knee"—are not these to the life? This first letter also shows us Alfred among his brothers. Alas! too soon the buoyant lad, whose heart knew no thrill except of gladness as he guided the sports of his gleeful brothers, was to stand among them an elder brother and a thoughtful counselor. But let the veil rest, for we are yet some way from the awful darkness, and have many important and pleasant steps to take before we reach it.

In this winter of 1838 Alfred made another first effort, of greater moment than his first essay at "epistolary writing." The deep religious seriousness which he had felt in Baltimore had not at any time wholly subsided, and now, under the power of the Holy Spirit, was vividly renewed. "There (Carlisle) I became," he has recorded, "the subject of powerful conviction. Often I have risen from my meal and sought some lonely place where I might weep on account of sin. Frequently I have lain awake on my bed, fearing to sleep, lest I might wake up amid the darkness and horrors of an eternal Hell. Sin became a burden too intolerable to be borne." This is strong language for a youth of ten years, and for one who had been uniformly affectionate and obedient; and yet such an experience even for a youth in those days was hardly exceptional; but though it might have been, in his case it is not surprising in view of the sharp and definite features his religious character always assumed. Here, in the beginning of the spiritual life, is the same positiveness which afterward characterized his maturity. "Sin



is real, Hell is real ; I am a sinner ; I am in danger of its punishment." Such was the revelation the Holy Ghost made in his conscience, and he felt and acted accordingly. It may not be necessary that every youth should feel thus deeply in order to become regenerate, but for Alfred Cookman it was the very best preparation he could have had for that clear and definite religious experience which subsequently distinguished him. Fortunately he has left a narration of his conversion, which I give entire :

"During the month of February, 1838, while a protracted meeting was in progress in Carlisle, I concluded 'now is the accepted time,' 'now is the day of salvation.' One night, when a social meeting was held at the house of a friend, I struggled with my feelings, and, although it was a fearful cross, I urged my way to a bench which was specially appropriated for penitents. My heart convulsed with penitential sorrow, tears streaming down my cheeks, I said, 'Jesus, Jesus, I give myself away ; 'tis all that I can do.' For some hours I sought, without, however, realizing the desire of my heart. The next evening I renewed the effort. The evening after that the service was held in the church ; the altar was crowded with seeking souls, principally students of Dickinson College ; there seemed to be no place for me, an agonized child. I remember I found my way into one corner of the church. Kneeling all alone, I said, 'Precious Saviour, Thou art saving others, oh, wilt Thou not save me?' As I wept and prayed and struggled, a kind hand was laid on my head. I opened my eyes and found it was a Mr. James Hamilton, a prominent member and an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Carlisle. He had observed my interest, and obeying the promptings of a kind, sympathizing Christian heart, he came to encourage and help me. I remember how sweetly he unfolded the nature of faith and the plan of salvation. I said, 'I will believe, I do believe ; I now believe that Jesus is my Saviour ; that He saves me—yes, even now ;' and immediately,

“The opening heavens did round me shine  
With beams of sacred bliss ;  
And Jesus showed His mercy mine,  
And whispered I am His.’

“I love to think of it now ; it fills my heart unutterably full of gratitude, love, and joy. ‘Happy day ; oh, happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away !’”

It will thus be seen that the great change wrought in his heart, as presented in his own language in mature life, was as decided in the evidences of its thoroughness, as were his convictions for sin.

The altar was thronged with older persons, mostly students, whose presence and importance very naturally engrossed attention ; he was only a little boy ; his feelings might be regarded as the result of a sympathetic excitement, and not worthy of especial notice ; but he understood himself, and oppressed with sin and bent upon relief, “he found himself in one corner of the church, all alone.” Ah ! my little brother, God’s Spirit was doing a genuine work in your young heart. Your great Creator had also put iron in your “make-up” when He formed you. There were hours coming when again “all alone with your Saviour” you must stand ; hours so bitter in their loneliness that only Jesus and self-reliance can keep you firm to duty and give you victory. Although Alfred was off in the corner, God sent him a kind friend who opened the kingdom of God to him. There are always some great souls who can understand the hearts of little children, and have faith enough to anticipate the harvests which will come of tiny seeds. But Alfred had good companionship among the youths brought to God in this revival. The great Head of the Church was electing others who, like himself, were to be marked and useful men.

## CHAPTER IV.

REV. GEORGE G. COOKMAN IN THE CAPITAL OF THE NATION.—  
THE YOUTH OF ALFRED.

THE time had come—spring of 1838—when Mr. Cookman must again remove, and go he knew not whither, at the appointment of the Episcopacy. As intimated in the letter already quoted, Philadelphia, Charleston, and Washington wished his services. To the latter city, the national capital, he was sent; and the cozy college town was exchanged for the political centre of the nation, and now upon a broader scene the eloquent and devout preacher was to make his appearance. The two years at Carlisle were invaluable to the man who henceforth must stand before “kings.” Two more years, and four or six more, would have been valuable to Alfred. It was hard for him to leave the “stately grammar school,” with its “strict discipline,” and to give up the prospect of a speedy entrance into the walls of the college, a prize so coveted by every true “prep;” but when the itinerant wheel rolls, the schools of boys must stand out of the way, and so Alfred must go with father and mother and brothers; he was too young to be left behind, and he must do the best he can in the pursuit of “literature” in Washington City. Mr. Cookman was stationed at Wesley Chapel, then a new charge, comprising in its membership many of the most cultivated and progressive Methodists of the city.

The proximity of his church to the Capitol rendered it convenient of access to the members of Congress and to strangers visiting Washington during the sessions. His ministry began at once to excite attention; soon the chapel was thronged with hearers from all sections of the country, irrespective of denomi-

national connections, and his reputation was promptly established as a first-class pulpit orator. It may be safely affirmed that no minister ever entered Washington who maintained from first to last a greater ascendancy over the popular heart. Men and women of every grade of society, of every station in the government, were equally charmed by his forcible and beautiful eloquence. Senators, heads of Departments and their clerks, rich and poor, the *littérateur* and the illiterate man, the slaveholder and the slave, all alike were captured by his magical tongue, and he swayed their hearts as with the wand of a magician—with “a warrior’s eye beneath a philosopher’s brow,” his spell was irresistible.

Mr. Cookman had a reputation for eloquence before his advent in Washington. This undoubtedly helped him to an expectant hearing; but, if he had not possessed genuine power, his failure must have been proportionately great, as the previous expectations aroused had been high. To sustain a reputation is proof of real ability. In most instances, however, his power was attested by his signal influence over men who, outside of the Methodist Church, had never heard of him, or who went first to listen to him with comparative indifference. Oftentimes the casual listener, who had come to church to worship, to hear any body, and who was not acquainted either with the name or the personal appearance of Mr. Cookman, was so strongly impressed as to wish to hear him constantly ever afterward. As an example illustrative of this, and also showing how Mr. Cookman came to be elected Chaplain to Congress, I give here part of a sketch from the Hon. O. H. Smith, then United States Senator from Indiana, which appeared in the *Indianapolis Journal* soon after Mr. Cookman’s death:

“It was Sabbath morning. The last of the city church-bells was ringing as I left my boarding-house on Capitol Hill, at Washington City, for Wesley Chapel. It was quarterly meeting. The preacher had closed his sermon, when there arose at the desk a slender, spare man, about five feet eight,

dark complexion, black hair falling carelessly over his high forehead, lean, bony face, wide mouth, round breasted black coat with velvet falling collar, black vest and pantaloons. Addressing the congregation, he said: 'We desire to take up a small collection for the relief of destitute, worn-out Methodist preachers and their families. We appeal to-day to the hearts of the congregation,' and took his seat. A large collection followed. I whispered to Patrick G. Good, of Ohio, who sat by me, 'Who is that?' 'Don't you know him? It is George G. Cookman.' The next Sabbath I was at the chapel again. Mr. Cookman preached. I returned satisfied that he was no ordinary man. The election for Chaplain of the Senate came on a few days after, and without the knowledge of Mr. Cookman, I privately suggested his name to the Senators around me. The most of them had heard him preach. He was elected Chaplain by a decided vote over Rev. Henry Slicer,\* against whom there was not the least objection; but we wanted to bring Mr. Cookman more prominently before the public. The next Sabbath he preached his first sermon in the Hall of the House, to a very large congregation, from the text, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon.' He made a profound impression on his hearers that day, which seemed to increase with every succeeding sermon."

Such a testimony was all the more creditable to Mr. Cookman, coming, as it did, from a Presbyterian gentleman. The interest shown in promoting his election to the Chaplaincy of the United States Senate was certainly magnanimous in Mr. Smith, but is the more significant as showing the remarkable influence which Mr. Cookman gained over those who heard him.

It was in the winter of 1838-9 that his election to this honorable position occurred. Politics were running high. The country has never known a more excited political canvass, except during the late civil war, than was then pending. The Whigs and the Democrats were the two great parties which disputed for victory. The first talents of the land were gathered in the capital. Orators, whose names are forever identified with the classic period of American eloquence; statesmen, who were probing and settling the principles of constitutional law for

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\* The Rev. Dr. Slicer was several times Chaplain of the Senate after this, and always sustained a high reputation for fidelity in the position.

generations yet unborn ; sagacious men from all the pursuits of life, elected to represent the diversified interests of widely differing sections, were experimenting in the problems of banking, protection, free-trade, of slave and free labor, of colonization, of internal improvements ; soldiers, whose laurels won in the late war with England were scarcely yet withered, and who, jealous of every possible encroachment of the mother-country, were eagerly watching for the adjustment of all difficulties between the two nations on a satisfactory basis—these all were in the Congress of 1838-9. The illustrious triumvirs—Clay, Webster, and Calhoun—and many others of hardly less fame, such as Benton, Berrien, Preston, Wright, Buchanan, occupied seats in the Senate. But Mr. Cookman was equally at home here as he had been at Carlisle before the professors.

A man of one work, his simple, devout piety was unchanged, and here, as elsewhere, inspired his preaching and his conduct. He so preached and so lived, with such an evident singleness of purpose, with such unaffected humility of spirit, as to win universal respect and confidence. His theme was Christ crucified ; his object the salvation of men. Whether he preached in the Hall of the House of Representatives or in his own church, his sermons were not only eloquent in the popular sense, but appropriate, forcible, and direct, and uniformly conveyed to those who heard him proof of his deep and thorough religious earnestness. In these hours of responsibility, when the wisest were ready to receive his instructions ; and of danger, when the incense of praise was perfuming his life, there was need of all that close application to books, that profound devotion to Christ, and that jealousy of self which he cultivated in his earlier religious experience. There is such a thing as the hiding of power in the present for the uses of the future. Young men, whom the great Master leads through conflicts, through long and tedious days of proving, through earnest and self-denying wrestles for purity and knowledge, do not always realize

that they are storing the strength which is afterward to be their great resource. The highest proof of a great mind is its reserved force. In this element Mr. Cookman was pre-eminent in his sphere. His hold on God, his clear-sightedness, his firm convictions, his understanding of his own aims, his thorough self-abnegation, enabled him to stand unawed before the wisdom of the nation.

As might be expected, a ministry thus faithful was not without its direct fruits. In an ordinary church immediate results are looked for, and usually follow; but too often the highest ends of preaching, when to such congregations as then assembled in the House of Representatives, are left to the remote future. Some of the first men of the land were deeply moved by the minister's searching and persuasive appeals. Among them was ex-President Franklin Pierce, at that time one of the Senators from New Hampshire. Mr. Pierce never ceased to cherish for the memory of Mr. Cookman the most reverent affection, and although he did not at this time take a decided open stand for Christ and unite with the Methodist Church, it will be remembered that in his later life he manifested the highest respect for religion, and some years before his death, on profession of faith, he was received into the communion of the Protestant Episcopal Church. It will be no breach of confidence, now that both of these men of God have passed away, if I make public Mr. Cookman's own account of Mr. Pierce's awakening, written at the time to Professor Caldwell, of Dickinson College. Reference is also made to Senator Linn, of Missouri, who likewise manifested much religious feeling:

"WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., February 28th, 1839.

\* \* \* \* \*

"This morning I had an interesting and memorably affecting interview with a friend of yours, Senator Pierce, of New Hampshire, who is at present the subject of deep, poignant convictions of the Spirit of God. He has been attending my ministry regularly ever since I have been in the city, and for the last three or four weeks his heart has been broken up indeed, and

a more sincere, humble, penitent sinner I have seldom seen. He opened his mind, he said, for the first time to any human being on the overwhelming subject of his soul's salvation, and while tears coursed down his cheeks, and he paced the room—and then sat down and commenced anew the history of his life and the convictions of God's Spirit upon his mind; my own mind was deeply affected, for he is a gentleman to whom I am very much attached—an amiable, frank, sincere character. He expresses his intention of attending the ministry and class-meetings of the Methodists on his return to Concord, and also here in this city, if spared to see another session of Congress. He requested me to pray for him on the spot, in my parlor, and appeared deeply affected and earnestly engaged for the salvation of his soul.

“Senator Linn, of Missouri, has also manifested great interest on the subject of religion. He is intimate with Senator Pierce—may both be brought into the favor and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are acquainted with the Rev. J. M. F., the stationed preacher at Concord, New Hampshire, a few lines from you advising of Senator Pierce's peculiar religious state might be expedient—although I think it best in *general* to keep these cases away from the bulk of our people, who talk too *much* when *great* sinners are convicted, which often defeats the desired object. If you could write to the Senator it might have a good effect.”

Among Professor Caldwell's unpublished manuscripts is a letter to the Senator, breathing a wisdom, purity, fidelity, and affection which must have been not only kindly received, but have made an enduring impression upon his mind. One of its closing sentences is, “Permit me, my dear sir, to express a hope that your application to the fountain of all truth, and to the source of all wisdom, may be so successful that you may never have occasion to rest your hopes for this world or the next on the doubts and uncertainties of skepticism—the system to which I believe all ultimately resort who are so unfortunate as to find no better.”

But I must not forget, in the work and fame which were thus clustering so thickly about the father, the lovely youth who was unobtrusively pursuing the even tenor of his way. It was Mr. Cookman's habit to make a companion of Alfred. Frequently he took him to the Senate Chamber, where he received the attentions of Senators in the genial greetings which occurred.



He was just then as handsome, well-formed, and as engaging a boy of eleven years as could be found. He could appreciate, if not the intrinsic worth, the manifest popularity of his father as evinced in the position to which he was chosen, in the crowds that thronged his ministry, and in the compliments bestowed on his preaching ; and it is not to be supposed he was indifferent to it all. His young heart swelled, no doubt, with emotions of pride for his father, and for himself as the son of such a father, and the consequent partner in his fame. The outside world of men and things into which Alfred was thus introduced, differed vastly from the simple surroundings of Carlisle—great men, great buildings, great measures, great pageants ; these now crowded the thoughts that so recently were taken up and satisfied with books, play, and prayers.

I spoke of the disadvantage his education must suffer by his removal from the grammar school at Carlisle just as he was getting into thorough drill ; equally it should not surprise us if his religious life, when removed from familiar and genial friendships into new and strange associations, were to meet with a chill which would abate its warmth, if not stop its growth. The first few days and nights of a plant's transfer from the nursery to the open air, are always days and nights of peril to its opening buds. How many young Christians, who commence with vigorous promise, fall away and perish because of a too sudden change of place or of pastors ! Alfred did not lose his religious faith ; but, by his own acknowledgement, his experience declined in vitality—he was not the same joyous little Christian for some months that he had been soon after being “all alone with Jesus” in the corner of the church.

“Some time after this we removed to Washington City, in the District of Columbia. Here I fell in with new associates who felt no interest in the subject of religion, and declined a little in my warmth and zeal, and partook a little too much of their spirit.” The subsidence of his piety was of short duration.

"The camp-meeting season rolled around ; I expressed a desire to go ; my mother cheerfully consented, observing, ' My son, I want you to seek at the meeting an entire restoration of your former happy experience, and regain every step you have lost by want of watchfulness.' Her counsel followed me to the forest. I sought God again. I remember the night ; I remember the circumstances ; the struggle was long and painful, it continued almost to the breaking of the day. Glory to God ! however, He who said, ' Return unto Me, backsliding Israel, and I will heal all thy backslidings and love thee freely,' heard and answered, and restored unto me the joy of His salvation. Oh how beautiful the following morning appeared ! the sky seemed bluer than before, the air sweeter, the trees greener, the landscape lovelier—all nature seemed to appear in a new dress. I felt like saying, ' Come unto me all ye that fear God, and I will tell you what He hath done for my soul.' My precious father had gone off the ground to spend the night. I knew the way he would most probably return. I hastened in that direction, saw him coming, sprung into his arms, fell on his neck, and told him how happy I was. Since then I have had a place in the Church of Jesus Christ. In the midst of great unfaithfulness and unworthiness God has borne with and preserved me, and now I feel to say,

" ' Here I'll raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I've come.'

" I attribute my conversion under God to the instruction, example, and influence of pious parents."

Henceforth the camp-meeting was to be hallowed ground to Alfred Cookman. The father was nowhere more effective than when on " the stand " before a crowd at camp-meeting. The ample platform, the absence of huge breastworks, the direct contact with the worshiping throng, the presence of earnest brethren, the natural and artificial accompaniments offered the exact conditions of his happiest efforts ; but Alfred was to find

in the camp-meeting all these aids, and more—the memory of this happy renewal of religious joy which he has so graphically narrated. His attachment to the camp-meeting, the ardor and constancy with which he used it as an agency of good, and the gracious results accomplished by him through it, ought not to surprise us. It is manifest from this account, our young friend could not consent to be religious by halves—he must be a whole-hearted Christian, or not at all. Entireness becomes the fundamental law of his spiritual life. If these pages shall disclose any thing in regard to him, it must be, “All for God”—“first, last, midst.” He returned from the camp-meeting with his heart all aglow with sacred joy, and from the impulse which it awakened began at once to seek means of personal usefulness. He must communicate what he knew and felt to other boys; and so, of his free motion, “he established a prayer-meeting for boys of his own age, and worked in various ways to impress his own spirit upon all with whom he came in contact. Many were induced to take their first steps in a religious life through his example and persuasion.”

In the autumn (1838) he united with the Church. His father had thought it best to keep him on “probation” until he gave satisfactory proofs of a stable piety. Soon after his removal to Washington he commenced to exercise himself on the platform as a speaker, and at that early age received much commendation and evinced great promise, so that “predictions were freely made of what the future of this young speaker might be, to which the father readily assented.” It was no little credit to the youthful “Cicero” that his father readily assented, for, whether for banter or not, Mr. Cookman used to rouse the mother’s jealousy for her little “Temple builder” by intimating, “Your Solomon is a rather dull boy!” I doubt if he was even then so noted for quickness of perception as for tenacity in sticking to a lesson until he had mastered it, and then holding it fast. What is of most interest at this particular point is—he

appears before us at twelve years of age a decidedly religious lad in experience and action, and a speaker, thus affording us a clear view of the dawn of that personal career which was eventually to open into full-orbed day.

Mr. Cookman during the winters of 1839-40, 1840-41, was at the zenith of his fame. The newspapers of the day not unfrequently noticed his preaching in the most complimentary terms. Numerous extracts could be given showing the high estimate in which he was held, both as a man and a Christian minister. A correspondent of the *United States Gazette*, then the leading paper of Philadelphia, under date of January 7th, 1839, wrote thus of one of his earlier efforts: "Yesterday the Hall of the House of Representatives was crowded to overflowing for the purpose of hearing Mr. Cookman, the new Chaplain of the Senate. \* \* \* All the *élite* of Washington City were present. Thronged as we are with strangers during the sessions of Congress, there is no place of worship to which they feel that they have a sort of legitimate right of *entrée*, except when the House of the People of the United States is converted into the House of God: thither they usually flock for their religious exercises. All sects as well as all ranks join their devotions here, and I have always observed that the ministry, with good taste much to their credit, when addressing audiences of such peculiar character, shun those points of doctrine which are productive of controversy, and content themselves with inculcating religion in its broad, simple, and incontrovertible sense. Mr. Cookman is of the Methodist persuasion, and has won considerable celebrity for his oratorical power. Slightly made, of an age scarcely exceeding thirty years (as far as I could form an opinion at a distance), free from affectation of style and manner, he held his large and enlightened auditory in the deepest attention for about an hour, while he expounded from the words of St. Paul, 'I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation.' The descriptions of the

apostle were given with a graphic power which was attested by the deep silence and breathless attention of all present. In that vast circle, so entirely were all absorbed, that the cracking of a chair caused a visible sensation. From the death of Stephen, the first martyr, he tracked him to the arraignment before Felix, marking every step with a precision which gave individuality to his posture; and, judging from the countenances of all around me, I was satisfied the preacher had established himself on a high basis as a Christian orator."

An occasion which afforded an opportunity for the versatile talents of Mr. Cookman, particularly for the expression of pathos as an element of power, occurred at the funeral services of the Hon. Thaddeus Betts, of Connecticut. Mr. Van Buren, the President of the United States, Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Woodbury, Mr. Poinsett, and Mr. Paulding, the heads of Departments, with a great number of the foreign Ministers and members of both Houses of Congress, were present. A correspondent of the *Baltimore American* wrote of the sermon by Mr. Cookman: "It was one of the most eloquent and appropriate performances I have ever heard, and, though continued through an unusual length of time, it was listened to with almost breathless attention." The Hon. Mr. Smith, of Indiana, before quoted, said of this occasion: "I distinctly recollect one of his figures of speech—'As the human family come upon the great stage of life, they find at every fork of the road the finger-board distinctly pointing to the grave—to the grave! There is no other road to travel from infancy to old age and death, but the road that leads to the grave.' There was not a dry eye in the Chamber when he closed his sermon of one hour, and sang alone—his voice was melody itself—the single verse of the hymn,

"And must this body die,  
This well-wrought frame decay?  
And must these active limbs of mine  
Lie mouldering in the clay?"

Nor was Mr. Cookman wanting in that delicate humor which is so often allied with real pathos. He could use it too as circumstances required, so that, while it would cut and correct, it rarely offended those at whom it was aimed, or the good taste of the most refined hearers. A writer in the *New York American* said of a passage in one of his sermons: "He ventured once to-day on delicate ground. After having stated what the world is learning from the Church, he observed, in substance, 'that statesmen are imitating the apostles of Christianity, and have become itinerating preachers of late, and that within a few months there have been many convictions, many conversions, and no want of songs and anthems (to the triumphs of Truth).' The idea of this parenthesis, it is true, was not openly conveyed; but it occasioned many smiles, and some red faces.\* However, the preacher escaped just in season to save himself. It was a nice touch. The effect of all such things depends upon the manner and the tact of the man, in connection with the general respect he inspires. I do not think any body that was present will scold about it, but it was a close rub." I can not forbear quoting a little further from this writer. His description will recall Mr. Cookman to those who had the pleasure of hearing him, and to those who had not, it will convey a more adequate notion of the man and his preaching:

"I have already said that I think he is deservedly popular. He is modest, unassuming, and dignified. Withal he appears to be a good man in his appropriate calling. In the pulpit he has much action. In person slender, long arms, thin face, dark complexion, bushy hair, and can display his person in oratorical action to great advantage. His voice is good, and susceptible of great power. His language is well chosen and simple. His elocution slow, deliberate, and effective—imparting great power occasionally to a single word, to a monosyllable, by his voice and manner. But it is not manner alone. The thought

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\* The allusion was to the political canvass of 1840.

is the soul, and is always worthy of attention. He has now and then a theatric start or sudden flight, with branching arms and stentorian voice or falsetto scream ; not, however, offensive to those who are disposed to tolerate liberties of this sort. It is the man enacting himself, or discoursing in his own way. He is decidedly one of the most remarkable models of eloquence there is in either House of Congress, and many of them might take lessons of him with profit."

To explain fully the character of this eminent man, and the wide-spread influence which he exerted, especially beyond his own denomination, it is necessary to note the catholicity of his spirit. I insert the following extract from a Washington paper as illustrative of this trait, and also for its allusion to one of the most intellectual and saintly ministers which American Presbyterianism has produced: "On Sunday afternoon last the Rev. Mr. Cookman, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, so justly celebrated for his pulpit oratory and liberal sentiments, preached in the Rev. Mr. McLain's Church (First Presbyterian, on Four-and-a-half Street). His text was *John* xvii., 21: 'That they all may be one ; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.' The reverend gentleman stated 'that he had selected this text for the reason that, in conversation with the late Rev. Dr. Nevins (of the First Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, whose precious memory even the iron hand of time can scarcely ever obliterate from the minds of the Christian Church) during his last illness, the Doctor observed that, if he was again privileged to occupy his pulpit but once more, he would endeavor to preach from that text. Before the succeeding Sabbath he was taken to his everlasting rest and reward.' No two spirits were ever more congenial than those of Nevins and Cookman, and during the delivery of his discourse it seemed as if the mantle of the departed Elijah had fallen upon the speaker ; and, with thoughts that breathe and words

that burn, he illustrated and enforced the subject, giving full utterance to the sentiments of his departed friend."

In the spring of 1840 Mr. Cookman was appointed to the charge of the Church in Alexandria City, D. C.\* He still retained his Chaplaincy, and regularly fulfilled its duties until the expiration of the Congress of the fourth of March, 1841. His pastorate in Alexandria was attended with all the marks of public favor and of ministerial usefulness which had accompanied him in other communities. There occurred nothing to the father to which any special significance can be attached; but with Alfred it was quite different. He had seen but little of slavery since he lived a child on the eastern shore of Maryland. In Pennsylvania and New Jersey the colored race was free; in Baltimore the free blacks were more numerous than the slaves, and this was true also of Washington. He had seen few, if any, of the more painful aspects of the institution; and young as he was, it had seemed to him only a form of domestic servitude, relieved by the kind relationships often subsisting between masters and slaves. In Alexandria a free black was rather an exception. If, however, he had seen slavery even here only as he had been accustomed to it, there is no likelihood that any impression would have been made upon his mind of decided aversion to it.

Near his father's residence was one of those painful features of the domestic slave-trade—a slave-pen or jail—which the boy used often to pass, and where he saw poor men, women, and children confined behind iron grates, sometimes manacled, for no other crime than that they were owned as property, and could be sold hither and thither by their owners at pleasure. Alexandria was a *dépôt*, to which the slaves purchased in Maryland and the District of Columbia were brought, and where they were lodged before being sent to supply the cotton-growing states. Sometimes at the very doors of the jail would hap-

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\* Alexandria was afterward re-ceded to the State of Virginia.



pen those scenes which were well fitted to rend a stouter heart than that of our sensitive young friend. The husband would be rudely separated from the wife, and parents from their helpless children; and these poor creatures, with all the instincts of human nature, strengthened by tender associations, would vent their sorrow in bitter cries, which gathered around them a sympathizing crowd—how could Alfred look on without emotion, and without forming a deep hatred to laws which sanctioned such occurrences? Such sights were enough to wound the heart of a boy born in the midst of slavery; how could they do otherwise than curdle the blood of a youth born of English parents, on free soil, and with such a soul as Alfred Cookman possessed? The iron then went deep into his heart, and forever after he was the enemy of slavery, and steadfastly did what he could consistently to abate and destroy it. This is the only scrap of Alfred's education or history in Alexandria of which I have any information.

The disaster which removed Mr. Cookman from the scene of his usefulness and from the world was fast approaching. In the spring of 1841 he determined to visit England, and all his plans were accordingly made to sail from New York early in March. He had been appointed by the American Bible Society a fraternal delegate to represent it at the anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society to be held at Exeter Hall, London, and was to be made bearer of the first dispatches to the British Government from the incoming Administration of General Harrison; his main object, however, in going over, was to see again his venerable father, and "to drop a tear on the grave of his mother." It was fitting, in view of his position and popularity, that his farewell sermon should be preached in the Capitol. He was regarded as a pastor not only by the Alexandria Church, but by the Senate of the United States and large numbers of the floating and unchurched population. A well-nigh romantic interest centred in him. The spell of his eloquence and the aroma of his character had completely fascinated the people.

Never were there circumstances attending the delivery of a sermon more fully adapted to awaken in the preacher all his capacity of thought and emotion, or to render it more thrilling and abiding in the minds of the hearers. Washington was literally thronged with strangers from all parts of the country. General Harrison had been elected President by an overwhelming majority, and his inauguration was about to take place in the presence of crowds the like of which for numbers and refinement the metropolis of the nation had never before seen. Mr. Cookman's fame was now commensurate with the American public ; though no politician, he was known to be in quiet sympathy with the dominant party ; his piety was universally conceded ; his oratorical supremacy none disputed ; expectation was on tip-toe. It may be safely affirmed that never had sacred orator more conditions in his favor. Added to all this was his speedy departure for a foreign land, to encounter the perils of a voyage from which he might never return—which consideration helped further to deepen in the popular heart the sense of his value, and to intensify in his own heart the conviction of his religious and ministerial responsibility. But he rose with the occasion. The external excitement infected him ; the grandeur of his spirit never before attained to such proportions, nor shone with such effective light. The account given by eye-witnesses can best convey some true notion of the man, the hour, and the place :

“The session of Congress was about to close upon the administration of Mr. Van Buren. The inauguration of General Harrison was soon to take place. Mr. Cookman had all his arrangements made to visit England on the steamer *President*. The first dispatch from the new Administration was to be confided to his charge. The next Sabbath he was to take leave of the members of Congress in his farewell sermon. The day came. An hour before the usual time the crowd was seen filling the pavement of the avenue, and passing up the hill to Representative Hall, which was soon filled to overflowing, and hundreds, unable to get seats, went away disappointed. I obtained a seat early in front of the Clerk's desk. John Quincy Adams

sat in the Speaker's chair, facing Mr. Cookman. The whole space on the rostrum and steps was filled with Senators and Representatives. The moment had come. Mr. Cookman, evidently much affected, kneeled in a thrilling prayer, and rose with his eyes blinded with tears. His voice faltered with suppressed emotion as he gave out the hymn,

“ ‘When marshaled on the mighty plain,  
The glittering hosts bestud the sky,  
One star alone of all the train  
Can fix the sinner's wandering eye.

“ ‘Hark ! hark ! to God the chorus breaks,  
From every host, from every gem ;  
But one alone the Saviour speaks,  
It is the star of Bethlehem.

“ ‘Once on the raging seas I rode,  
The storm was loud, the night was dark—  
The ocean yawned, and rudely blowed  
The wind that tossed my foundering bark.’

“The hymn was sung by Mr. Cookman alone. I can yet, in imagination, hear his voice, as it filled the large hall, and the last sounds, with their echoes, died away in the dome.

“ ‘And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them.

“ ‘And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened : and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*, and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.’

“Mr. Cookman was more affected when he gave us the text than I had ever seen him before. He several times passed his handkerchief over his eyes before he began. The first sentences are fresh in my recollection : ‘When Massillon, one of the greatest divines that France ever knew, was called to preach the funeral service of the departed king, in the Cathedral, at Paris, before the reigning king, the royal family, the chambers, and the grandees of France, he took with him to the sacred desk a little golden urn, containing a lock of hair of the late king. The immense congregation was seated, and the silence of death reigned. Massillon arose, held the little urn in his fingers, his hand resting upon the sacred cushion. All eyes were intently fixed upon him. Moments, minutes passed—Massillon stood motionless, pale as a statue ; the feeling became intense ; many believed he was struck dumb before the august assembly ; many sighed and groaned aloud ; many

eyes were suffused with tears, when the hand of Massillon was seen slowly raising the little golden urn, his eyes fixed upon the king. As his hand returned again to the cushion, the loud and solemn voice of Massillon was heard in every part of the Cathedral, 'God alone is great!' So I say to you to-day, my beloved hearers, there is no human greatness—'*God alone is great!*'

"The subject was on the day of judgment. I had heard it preached before many times, but never as I heard it then. The immense congregation was held almost breathless with the most beautiful and powerful sermon I ever heard. He spoke of the final separation on the great day of judgment, and fancied the anger of the Lord locking the door that led to the bottomless pit, stepping upon the ramparts, letting fall the key into the abyss below, and dropping the last tear over fallen and condemned man. He closed—'I go to the land of my birth, to press once more to my heart my aged father and drop a tear on the grave of my sainted mother; farewell!—farewell!' and he sank down overpowered to his seat, while the whole congregation responded with sympathizing tears."

A correspondent of the *National Intelligencer*, describing the same scene, after quoting Mr. Cookman's closing words, says: "There was something prophetic, solemn, and deeply affecting in the tones and manner of the preacher. \* \* \* All who had known him, or who had listened with wrapt attention to the eloquence which gushed from his lips, touched as with a living coal from the altar, were moved to tears, and seemed to feel as if they were taking in reality a last farewell of one who had given a new ardor to their piety, and thrown an additional interest into the sanctuary. The whole scene was in no ordinary degree grand, imposing, and affecting. The magnificent hall, a fit temple for the worship of the living God; the crowd that had assembled to hear the last sermon of the minister whose eloquence they so much admired; the attitude of the preacher, and the solemn and prophetic farewell, all conspired to excite feelings of the deepest solemnity and of the most intense interest."

## CHAPTER V.

### REV. GEORGE G. COOKMAN LOST AT SEA.—ALFRED'S RAPID PROGRESS.

MR. COOKMAN spent a few weeks about Washington, completing his arrangements and taking leave of friends, and immediately after the first dispatch of the new Administration was prepared by Mr. Webster and committed to him, he left for New York. His last words to the gentleman so freely quoted from were, "May Heaven bless you, Mr. Smith; if ever I return you shall see me in the West." He spent Sunday, 7th of March, in Philadelphia, worshipping with and taking the communion at the hands of his friend, the Rev. Dr. Suddards, rector of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church. On Monday he went to New York, and on Tuesday evening preached his last sermon in the Vestry Street Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he was to become the pastor after his return from England. He had intended to go to Boston and there take one of the Cunard steamers, but at the solicitation of friends' changed his mind, and embarked on the steam-ship *President* at New York on the 11th, for Liverpool. He left amid the tears and congratulations of friends. Neither the vessel nor any of her company was ever after heard from.

Various conjectures were given at the time as to the ship's probable fate, the most likely of which is that, as a violent storm had been raging for days, she foundered soon after getting to sea. Hopes were entertained for a long time that she might be safe; or, on the supposition that the vessel had foundered, or had been burned, or had been crushed by icebergs, it was hoped that her crew and passengers had been rescued.

As the time arrived when tidings were due from the steamer, and no word came, the suspense both in England and America became intense and painful. The excitement prevailed among all classes. Steam-ship navigation was then comparatively in its infancy, and an accident to a steamer very naturally awakened more attention than now when fleets of them are plowing the ocean. The fact that Mr. Cookman was a passenger heightened the public interest. His name was on every lip; his merits as minister and orator, his worth as a citizen, his loss to the Church and the nation, but above all to his young family, were the theme of general conversation and newspaper comment. At length all hope for the ship and her passengers died out of the public mind; but not so in the heart of the stricken and devoted wife—hope lived in her heart many days after it had perished in the hearts of all others. She lived months and years with the expectation of seeing him return. The house was daily and nightly arranged—his chair at the table ready to be vacated, and all else adjusted with the expectation of his coming at any hour.

Although not yet an accomplished fact with Mrs. Cookman, it was an accomplished fact that her husband had perished in the great waters. That “vasty deep” which he so loved, and from which he so often drew for choice imagery in the illustration of truth, and in the use of which he was almost without a peer, had become his grave. “He has discouraged me,” said a Senator, distinguished for his eloquence, “in the use of my happiest figures. There is such a richness, beauty, and force in his illustrations from the ocean, so far surpassing my reach, that I know not that I shall ever again attempt to use them.” That ocean which he had several times crossed, where death had before stared him in the face, all whose myriad ways in storm and calm had become familiar to his mind, whose endless forms and colorings he had studied with an artist’s eye and transferred with an artist’s skill to the tables of memory, in solitary communion with which he

had had so many thoughts of God and human destiny, so many seasons of prayer, praise, and aspiration, in whose awful silence and restless life he had found such strange sympathy with his own nature, from which he had in all these respects received so much for his own enriching, had now at last received him. His loss pierced thousands of loving souls with acutest sorrow.

But painful as was his death, the manner of it—sudden—in the sea—involved in mystery—threw around his end a tragic charm which well comported with the brilliancy of his reputation, and which served to deepen and extend his already widespread influence. In the prime of his life, at the height of his fame, in the fullness of his intellectual powers, and in the maturity of grace, he was not, for God took him. A star of the first order was suddenly quenched. But another star was to arise in due time, if not of equal splendor, yet certainly of equal clearness and steadiness in its shining.

I could fill pages with the public and private testimonials of the grief which pervaded all classes of society, and all circles of pursuit and profession, at the sad death of this eminent and good man. It would be pleasant to linger over these tender and discriminating tributes to his virtues, his services to the cause of Christ, and the rare eloquence with which God had endowed him, and which he had so successfully cultivated, but I am admonished by the limits of space and purpose which confine me, and the demand that I should hasten to bring forward into greater prominence the youth whose name and fame so quickly followed in the wake of his father's.

Mr. Cookman wished and intended to take Alfred with him to England. He thought it would be gratifying to the grandfather to see him; and the son had attained an age at which he could be a companion to his father, and also derive much improvement from travel. I can imagine how strong the paternal instinct was in him, and how he must have yearned to have his first-born accompany him in so long an absence from

home, and under circumstances so suited to render them both entirely happy. There is nothing upon which a child can depend for safety more than this same paternal instinct. Ulysses was consistent in his feigned madness—plowing the sea-shore with a horse and bull yoked together, and sowing salt instead of grain—until his little son Telemachus was placed in the way, when his deception was betrayed by his showing sufficient foresight to turn away the plow from killing the child. Mr. Cookman could not but feel what a privation it would be to his wife to have Alfred leave her for so long a time, and what an additional affliction it would be should neither the husband nor the son be permitted to return. The lad, also, was of sufficient maturity in years and character to be of great assistance to the mother in her care of the younger children. And so, finally, Mr. Cookman yielded his preference, and it was left to the boy himself to elect—to go with his father or to stay with his mother.

It is difficult to see how any thing could have been more attractive to a youth of his age, tastes, and habits, than this trip homeward to England with his devoted father. He had heard the old country, grandfather, uncles, aunts, and cousins talked of, till his boyish fancy reveled in the thought of seeing them and their beautiful homes. But Alfred Cookman loved his mother as few boys ever did, he loved his brothers and sister as few elder brothers have ever done, his loyalty to duty had already become a passion, and his decision was given accordingly: "I will stay with mother, and help her take care of the children." These words give the key-note of his character. They not only preserved his life, but became the warp across which the web and woof of that life were woven into a fabric so strong and beautiful. He would do his duty first, and standing by his duty brought him into responsibilities which, under the divine blessing, made him what he was—a prince among God's spiritual Israel. The father then had to go alone. He went off cheerfully. Among the last words he spoke as the family



sat before the open fire, were these : " Now, boys, if your father sinks in the ocean, his soul will go direct to God, and you must meet him in heaven."

" There was sorrow on the sea." There was sorrow on the land. In the homestead at Kingston-upon-Hull, an aged father was bowed with grief ; in many Christian houses, where the image of the saintly pastor was hung, if not on the walls, yet in the memories of grateful hearts, there was genuine mourning ; but in the circle where the desolate widow gathered her fatherless children to a heart from which the warmth and light had well-nigh gone out, striving in vain to impart to them a comfort which she herself did not feel, who can depict the abyss of suffering into which this lovely family was thus suddenly plunged ! Every body was kind to them. Friends vied with each other in grateful offices. Warm hearts and cheerful homes were opened to them. But the very universality of regret and affection which met them seemed for a time only to help their hearts to compass the extent of their bereavement. What must be their loss, in the loss of him whom every body else, even the comparative stranger, so missed and lamented ! The brightness of sympathy often casts our sorrows into a darker shadow.

How like an angel of light Alfred now came to the side of his mother ! He restrained his own grief, and always appeared before her calm and cheerful. With the utmost delicacy he watched over her, anticipating all her wants with a foresight beyond his years, and exhibiting for her most hidden feelings a feminine tenderness of which she scarcely supposed him possessed. Mrs. Cookman, from reveling in the brilliance of her husband's fame and usefulness, found herself all at once in such utter darkness that her mind from the shock sank into the deepest gloom. So overwhelmed was she, that for two years she did not recover her cheerfulness. The name of her husband could not be pronounced in her presence without unnerving her, and so the mention of the father was studiously avoid-

ed by the children. All the while Alfred was preserving such a composed demeanor in the presence of his mother, he would lie awake nights thinking of his father. It was some distance from the quiet home in which the family were entertained to the nearest post-office, and as he often went for the mail, his heart would sink within him when no letter came from father, or from any one giving tidings of the ill-fated steamer. "How I did dread," he said in after years, "to return home, and meet my dear mother without a letter and see her disappointment!"

Thus at thirteen years of age, when the thought of play is uppermost with most boys, was our young friend abruptly forced by the providence of God into a trying and important relation to the family. He must be a husband as well as son to his mother; he must be father as well as eldest brother to the children. It is easy to conjecture, but impossible to know what would have been the course of Alfred's life, what the influence upon his character, what different impress he might have received, had his father lived. His training thus far, under the joint and harmonious direction of father and mother, was entirely judicious; he was as promising as the parents could wish; and, in all probability, had the father been spared to guide his studies as he grew to manhood, he might, in some respects, have been a more thoroughly cultured and intellectually a stronger man. What God's purpose was for the lad it is not for us even now to say; yet, permitted as we are to know the facts of his subsequent career, and to understand the distinctive nature of his mission as it afterward unfolded, I must certainly regard the great bereavement he sustained in the loss of his father as the crucial point of his history, in which the elements of character hitherto prominent were fixed, and also the lines of action which afterward distinguished him took their rise. Alfred Cookman was endowed from a child with a genius for religion. His anointing was that of a spiritual seer—to see with the spirit into the innermost heart of spiritual Christianity,

and from such seeing to lead men's minds into depths of a vital and blessed experience of the things of God, to which mere reason and even ordinary piety has no access. As the poet, by an endowment which transcends cold logic, pierces the core of things and opens their realities to the untutored mind—makes the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and the dull to feel beauties otherwise hidden—so he, by a divine gift above the processes of the understanding, was to know the truths of the great Teacher, perceive their highest religious relations, and then to stand as interpreter of God's work in the soul, so that multitudes, blinded by the dust and engrossed with the cares of the world, might come to perceptions and attainments to which but for such an interpreter they must forever have remained ignorant.

I look upon this great trial, therefore, as beginning at once the special work of which he was to be a pre-eminent example and instrument. He was to be an unworldly, sacred man, and God commenced with the stroke which cut him away from the strongest earthly support he had. Accustomed hitherto to lean on his father—now mother, brothers, sister, all lean on him; and he, poor boy, has none to lean on but God! Once again he was "all alone with Jesus." He had been taught that God is the only sure foundation of His children, and now he must prove it for himself by experience or perish. He did prove it; and at that early age began to show a ripeness of wisdom, a steadiness of purpose, an unselfishness, a goodness, faith, courage, which were far beyond his years. His mother testifies beautifully to his conduct at this period:

"He was only thirteen years old when his dear father left us on a visit to his native land, the sequel of which proved so disastrous to a large, helpless family; but which, notwithstanding, brought out in all their force and power what had been until now the germs of Alfred's character. He realized his position as the oldest of six children, and faithfully tried to fill up the chasm made by a wise, though inscrutable Providence. Eter-

nity alone will unfold all he was to his family as a son and as a brother in the years of his minority."

There is an old story told of a runaway Indian slave in Peru, who, in his escape, fleeing up the mountains from his pursuers, grasped a young sapling, and, clinging to it, tore it from the ground—when lo! he saw adhering to its roots the silver globules which revealed the precious metals of Potosi. That sapling was never planted again. It might have become the great tree, its branches a roost for the birds of the air, and its leaves a shade for man and beast; but in its destruction the untold wealth of Peru had been discovered. The rude hand of disappointment tore from Alfred Cookman's heart the support of a father's love, and the tender leaves and flowers of hope which clustered around it; but in doing so discovered to him a wealth of love far richer than silver and gold. His hold on the earthly father was broken, but his hold on the heavenly Father was made firm and indissoluble. In the wealth he gained, and the world through him, who shall mourn if the flowers, which might have been so fair, lie withered at the feet of his youth?

Soon after her husband's departure for England, Mrs. Cookman had gone, by invitation, with her children to the eastern shore of Maryland, where they were all to remain the guests of Mr. Samuel Harrison, until the husband's return in June, when they were to remove to New York City. Her stay was prolonged till the month of August. Since up to this time no information was received as to the fate of Mr. Cookman, and the prospect of his return was well-nigh abandoned, she began to cast about for the best thing to be done for the immediate future. From the grandfather and kindred in England the most urgent requests were received that she should at once take her children to England. Indeed, they wrote as though there could be no other course open to her. They were well able to provide for them, and her pecuniary means were exceedingly limited. Nothing would have been more natural than for Mrs.

Cookman to accept this offer—alone as she was among comparative strangers, with no relatives near, and knowing, as she did, that the resources at Hull were so ample ; but she decided not to go. She had left home for life ; her children had been born in America, and Americans they should be reared. “She would take two small rooms, and keep them all together around her, rather than all or any part of them should return to England.” Such was the language this heroic lady held to her friends across the water, and nothing could move her from her purpose. Mr. John Plaskitt, an Englishman residing in Baltimore City, and long known as the head of the firm of Plaskitt & Armstrong, booksellers and stationers, a prominent Methodist, and an intimate friend of the husband, with other gentlemen, rented a small house on Mulberry Street, near the Eutaw Street Methodist Church ; and to it the family removed in the autumn.

Mrs. Cookman and Alfred united with the Eutaw Street Church. The children who were old enough were entered at the Eutaw Street Sunday-school, and also at day schools. Alfred, at different times for the next few years, was under the instruction of Messrs. Robert H. Pattison, Perley R. Lovejoy, and John H. Dashiell—all recently students of Dickinson College—and of a Mr. Burleigh. At Mr. Burleigh’s school on one occasion he took several prizes—for elocution, an essay on simplicity, exercises in Latin, etc. He began thus early to attract attention as a speaker and writer. Mr. Robert Armstrong, then superintendent of the Eutaw Street Sunday-school, noticed his aptitude for public speaking, and was accustomed to put him up to address the boys’ department of the school. His first original declamation was on the American Indian, in which the richness of his fancy and the force and gracefulness of his elocution were already apparent.

The following letter from the grandfather shows the truly parental solicitude with which he regarded the widow and the children of his late son ; and the reply from Alfred affords us

an example of his dutifulness, and some account of his doings and progress.

From Mr. George Cookman, of Hull, to Alfred, his grandson :

“HULL, April 5, 1842.

“MY DEAR ALFRED,—I received three days ago the letter of your dear mother, sent off in February, and had a fearful presentiment of her recent affliction, as her letter of the 27th of December never came to hand. I am, however, very thankful that she is so much recovered; and I trust, as the spring advances, she will regain her wonted health. I am quite as well as I can expect to be at my advanced age, and feel a most lively interest in the comfort and happiness of your dear family. I look to you, my dear Alfred, as an important coadjutor with your dear mother in forming the habits and character of your family; and it gives me inexpressible pleasure to learn, from your dear mother's letter, that there is every reason to hope that my expectations in this respect will be fully realized. Rest assured that you will be looked up to by the younger branches of the family, and in setting them a good example—in cheerfully obliging your dear mother, in promptly and affectionately obeying her commands, and in sympathizing with her under the pressure of family trials and bereavements—you will greatly lighten her burdens, alleviate her sufferings, and minister, in no inconsiderable degree, to her peace, comfort, and happiness.

“I hope you pay unremitting attention to your education. Your dear father, when about your age, was very attentive and diligent in the cultivation of his mind; he read much, and kept a commonplace-book, into which he copied from the authors which he read such passages as he thought the most striking, either as to sentiment or language; and by adopting this plan he very much improved his style in composition and his taste. He also began at the same time to write short essays on different subjects, as trials of his intellectual strength; and resolutely struggled with and overcame those difficulties which, if not mastered, are often fatal to mental improvement. It was by his unremitting perseverance in these pursuits that he formed his graceful and chaste style of composition, and which in after-life enabled him to write with such facility and dispatch.

“Allow me, my dear grandson, to urge you to follow the example of your dear departed father in the cultivation of your mind at this period of your life, for your future acquirements will very much depend upon an early development of your mental faculties. It was by adopting this course that your dear uncle Alfred became so distinguished, both at home among his friends, as well as when he was a student at the University. I trust their

mantle will fall upon you, my dear boy, and that you will emulate their talents and virtues—and like them secure the respect and admiration of your friends, and largely contribute to the happiness of mankind. I am glad to find that the portrait of your dear father is, upon the whole, as good as could be expected under all the circumstances in which we were placed; we did our best to get it as faithful and correct a likeness as we possibly could; and many of his friends here, judging of him by what he was when he left England, think it a striking likeness. We should, however, have been better pleased if the portrait had been more perfect. The Rev. Mr. Suddards dined with me on the 31st of March, and has been most obligingly kind in giving us every important information in his power, both with regard to your dear father, and all the members of your dear family. I feel under great obligations to him for the sympathy and affectionate regard which he has so uniformly and generously manifested, both to the memory of my late dear son and also to his family. I owe him a debt of gratitude which I can never pay—but our good Lord, I trust, will reward him a hundred-fold for his work of faith and labor of love in behalf of our family.

“You will please to give my kind love to your dear mother, to George, and all the younger branches of your family; give dear little Mary a kiss for her grandfather.”

From Alfred to his grandfather :

“BALTIMORE, August 27, 1842.

“MY DEAR GRANDFATHER,—Your letter has remained unanswered longer than I had intended when it was first received. The reason why I did not answer it sooner was because I was very much engaged with my school duties, and during my vacation, when I might have written, I was in Washington. I hope you will excuse me.

“Mother has been improving in her health since last March. She has not been as well as usual for two weeks past. She is quite a miracle to herself and to all her friends, to be able to do what she does, considering how feeble she was. The warm weather always agrees better with her than the cold.

“I thank you for the kind advice which you give me in your letter. Rest assured, my dear grandfather, that it shall always be my first aim to comply with the wishes of dear mother, and in every way in my power to make her happy, for I deeply appreciate the obligations I am under to her: in sickness and health, she is always the same tender, kind, and affectionate mother. I am very much pleased with the plan you gave me of my dear father’s method of improvement. I shall try to pursue it, but with how much success I know not. I have been in the habit of writing short essays

on different subjects, and have found it very improving. I have been spending my vacation in Washington, and had an opportunity of attending the debates of Congress. I also attended a camp-meeting about sixteen miles from Washington. There were about one hundred and thirty tents on the ground, and about one hundred persons professed to be converted. We had a delightful time. I enjoyed myself very much.

"The treaty with Lord Ashburton has been amicably settled, and the people generally seem pleased. I got a sight of him one day in his carriage.

"I am connected here with the Sabbath-school. I have a class of eight small boys, whom I take a great delight in teaching. I am also connected with the McKendreean Juvenile Missionary Society, who have appointed me secretary. I am also secretary of the Asbury Juvenile Temperance Society of Baltimore. So you see I have plenty to do.

"The temperance cause is making rapid strides in this city and elsewhere. The Hon. T. F. Marshall, who is a reformed drunkard, has become one of its most powerful advocates. He is a man of fine talents, and excels as a public speaker. My brothers are all well. I wish, my dear grandfather, we could all see you and you could see us, and give us your valuable advice in person. We often look at your likeness hanging on the wall, and try to bring you before us. I hope you will continue your correspondence with me occasionally, and suggest plans that I may profit by. I resume my school duties to-morrow, for which I am very glad. I shall try to make the best of my time now, for I suppose I shall soon have to turn my attention to business. Mother says the next year will probably be my last for regular study. \* \* \*

Here also are letters of a year later from George and Alfred to their grandfather. They were written on one sheet of paper, and already exhibit the dawn of that loving brotherhood which grew with their growth in maturer years. Pretty plucky American boys, to write thus of Independence day to their English sire! Like many others, our young orator began fairly to fledge on the Fourth of July.

From George to his grandfather :

"BALTIMORE, July 27, 1843.

"MY DEAR GRANDFATHER,—I have for some time past been wondering how I could make a letter interesting to you, and now I think I have succeeded in gaining my object. In the first place, I wish to tell you how we spent the 4th of July, the anniversary of our country's independence. The



Sunday-school to which we belong assembled about 7 o'clock in the morning, and started from the school-house. We arrived at the place of destination about 8 o'clock. It was a beautiful grove, about a mile from the city. Our exercises commenced with singing and prayer, after which the children played for about an hour. We then again met at the stand, and, after singing and prayer, the Declaration of Independence was read. Alfred, who was the orator of the day, rose and spoke an original oration. There were several addresses and dialogues by the boys. We had a plentiful repast, and about 4 o'clock returned to the city, highly delighted by the exercises of the day. Alfred gave us some very good advice on patriotism, temperance, and duty to parents, and various other subjects. He was highly applauded for his youthful effort. At an exhibition of his school about a week ago, six judges awarded him the first prize for declamation. Our school broke up last Friday for the August holidays. I expect to start for the country in a day or two, where I hope to have a fine time in the various amusements of the country. I wish mother would move in the country rather than live in a crowded city.

"Your affectionate grandson,

"GEORGE COOKMAN."

From Alfred to his grandfather :

"BALTIMORE, July 27, 1843.

"MY DEAR GRANDFATHER,—At the request of dear mother, I purpose writing you a short letter on matters and things in general. For the last month I have had my time very much occupied in writing, committing, and delivering speeches, which I do assure you is no very easy task. On the 4th of July last, at the request of the teachers of the Eutaw Sabbath-school, I assembled with them in a most delightful grove, for the purpose of addressing them on the very interesting theme of the emancipation of our beloved America from the weight of British laws and British subjection—of the glorious 4th of July, 1776, when we declared ourselves a free and independent people, and to which day every true American ought to recur with feelings of veneration and patriotism. After numerous addresses and a plentiful repast, the children repaired to their respective homes highly delighted; and their only complaint was that the 4th of July did not come often enough for them. During the past year I have been going to a Mr. Burleigh's school, and have devoted almost all my time to the study of the ancient and modern languages. I think that the last year has added very much to my stock of information on various subjects. On the 20th of July Mr. Burleigh had an exhibition. About twenty-three of his scholars took part in the exercises; eight of that number had original speeches. I chose,

as the subject of my remarks, "Simplicity." I also delivered a short speech in French. After the speaking was over, the premiums were awarded to those deserving of them in the different classes. I received a handsome silver goblet, a small but neat silver cup, and two most interesting books. Our audience consisted of about fourteen hundred persons, who left the hall extremely gratified with the exercises. About three months ago a number of moral and intellectual youths formed themselves into a society for the purpose of self-improvement. Myself and George have the honor to be of the number. We meet every Friday evening. Our exercises consist of composition, declamation, and debate. Already do I find the good that accrues to me from being connected with this association; the misty clouds of ignorance which before gathered around me are beginning to disperse before the genial rays of the sun of science, and I trust before long to walk in the broad daylight of learning and intelligence. The influenza is raging to a very great extent in the city. Scarcely can you enter a house but some of the inmates are not suffering with it. \* \* \* We are very anxious for mother to move into the country a short distance, say one and a half or two miles. We see every day more and more the demoralizing influence of crowded cities in bringing up youth, and particularly so in Baltimore. I have not been in any city or town, nor do I believe there is any, where the youth are so depraved in their character and vicious in their habits as in Baltimore. \* \* \* But I am getting beyond my bounds. Tell cousin George R. I should be glad to hear from him."

I have before me a copy of the Fourth of July oration. It is creditable alike to the head and the heart of its youthful author. It is well conceived and well expressed, showing the elevation of thought and principle, the patriotic and religious fire which thus early animated him. In the same composition-book, in his neat handwriting, are translations from the Greek and Latin, and original essays, which give evidence of a vigorous intellect already well advanced in culture.

## CHAPTER VI.

### ALFRED, THE CHRISTIAN WORKER.—ESSAYS AT PREACHING.

HARMONIOUSLY with his intellectual progress, Alfred's moral and spiritual character was also growing. Mrs. Cookman, to satisfy her own yearnings for usefulness, to gratify the incessant demands for her counsel and society, and to obtain relief for her mind by activity, was much from home. She literally went about doing good—visiting the sick, needy, and penitent, attending social and religious meetings; and thus her heart was diverted, in a measure, from her great sorrow, and she was able to maintain a degree of health and cheerfulness. All this while Alfred was a keeper at home. He would urge her out, and volunteer to remain and take care of the children. Of an evening he could be seen, with his little brothers surrounding a large table, superintending their studies, helping them forward in their next day's tasks. Oftentimes the mother would return home weary, and she would say, "Come, children, we must have prayers before we go to bed;" and the quick response would be, "Mother, we have had prayers; Alfred has held prayers with us." At this age he showed habits of system and neatness which always followed him. His little room was a pink of tidiness; his bed, his books, his table, his clothes, all were kept in the nicest order, and he punctually observed the hours of coming and going assigned him by his mother. Could a better testimony be given to a son than the following from the pen of his mother?

"There are very few who could fully estimate the love and sympathy of such a mere youth as Alfred was when I was left

without the strong arm I had been accustomed to lean upon. He turned at once into the path of a wise and steady counselor, both to myself as well as to his brothers. He tried to share every burden and supply every loss which an apparent adverse Providence had laid upon us. In the deep anguish of a stricken heart, he would say, 'Dear mother, let the event be as it may, it is all right, and will turn out for the best; our heavenly Father disposes of all events, and He can not err in any of His dealings with His children.' Alfred did almost exclusively direct and control the studies of his brothers, unite with them in their various pursuits, and guard them from influences that might have been prejudicial but for his timely warnings; and yet there was no austerity in his admonitions; a spirit of consideration and kindness ever marked his efforts. He was remarkably constant in the path of obedience both toward God and in his Church relations. His class-meeting was never neglected. His attendance at the Sabbath-school, first as a scholar and then as a teacher, was constant; and so marked was his conduct as to induce the superintendent to request him to address his youthful companions on the importance of yielding their hearts to the blessed Saviour, and this before he was fifteen years of age."

Although he was naturally thoughtful, and the care prematurely devolved upon him tended to sadden his spirits, it must not be inferred that he was at all gloomy or despondent. On the contrary, he was one of the liveliest of boys, full of fun and cheerful gayety; he was always ready for a gambol with his brothers and his neighbors. He was a great favorite with his young companions. Known to be a ready writer, nothing was more common than for all the girls around to wish him to write their valentines.

The first public religious exercise which Alfred conducted was "to lead a class-meeting," when about sixteen years of age. A Mr. Childs had requested him to lead his class. The class

met in a private house. The mother, in her great desire to hear him conduct it without embarrassing him by her presence, concealed herself behind a side stair-way, and so listened to all the exercises. His opening hymn, which he read and sang, was,

“Talk with us, Lord.”

After a struggle of two years, Mrs. Cookman received the blessing of the perfect love of God, which removed her despondency and restored her former cheerfulness. While communing at Eutaw Street Church, the Holy Spirit applied Christ's words, “His blood was shed for thee,” with such force and sweetness as to fill her soul with peace, and to give her complete victory over all her fears. Henceforth she walked in the light of the Lord. This occurrence was very important, not only for herself, but also for the active work she was doing in the churches, and most of all for the duties which she owed to her family. In 1844 the new and beautiful Charles Street Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated. The trustees cordially offered Mrs. Cookman a pew, and the family found a warm welcome in the bosom of this young Church, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Edwin Dorsey, M.D. To be more convenient to the church, they removed to a house on Lexington Street. In the associations here Alfred's activity rapidly developed. His talents and piety were soon recognized, and he found every encouragement to their exercise.

Early in this year Alfred and George received a letter from their grandfather. It is so good that I can not refrain from inserting it entire.

From the grandfather Cookman to Alfred and George :

“HULL, STEPNEY LODGE, January 27, 1844.

“MY DEAR ALFRED AND GEORGE,—I received with more than ordinary pleasure your letters of the 27th of July, and in reading them I could scarcely persuade myself but that time, by some mysterious revolution, had thrown back my life for at least five-and-twenty years, and that I was again read-

ing the pleasing letters of dear Alfred and George, my beloved sons. But, alas ! the spell was soon broken by the painful recollections of the past. I am, however, delighted with your letters. The handwriting is very good ; the composition, for your ages, is of a superior order ; and, if you continue to prosecute your studies and exercises with unremitting perseverance, I have no doubt but you will, in your day, be the fac-similes of those whose endearing names you bear. \* \* \* Let me entreat you, my dear grandchildren, to minister in every way in your power to the tranquillity, comfort, and happiness of a mother whose maternal care and solicitude for the welfare of her family have been as unremitting as her love has been pure and ardent. I was delighted to hear of your attainments as scholars, and of the very handsome manner in which your exercises were received by the audience at your public exhibition. You have, by these successful efforts, secured a prominent position in the estimation of the public ; and if you should conclude from this circumstance that you may now relax your efforts in the prosecution of your studies, this elevation will be but the precursor of your fall. It is not enough to be considered the first among boys : you must look forward and aspire to be the first among your citizens. But this can not be attained but by unremitting industry. Decision of character is therefore indispensable in all important undertakings, and I have no doubt of your ultimate success if you are determined to excel. You are, I hope, proceeding with your learning in a systematic and methodical order, and making yourselves thoroughly masters of one branch of science before you enter upon another. This is indispensable, as this is the basis of all after-improvements in learning.

“I am glad to find that you have become members of a literary society, and have no doubt but it will be of great service to you. Your dear father and uncle had the same privilege, and they often surprised me by the papers they produced and the speeches they delivered on the questions discussed at their weekly meetings. Mixing with members of superior acquirements, they obtained a great increase of knowledge, and also obtained an easy and graceful mode of public speaking. There is, however, *some danger* growing out of these institutions, against which I would most urgently caution you. The questions for discussion have seldom any connection with each other, and this necessarily induces a desultory and careless course of reading and of thought. Now the danger to be apprehended is this : that you will seek applause in the forum rather than in the academy, and fall into a dislike of the study of those dryer branches of learning which require greater mental application and labor, and the mastery of which is essential to your becoming proficient in sound learning. Above all things of this life, seek first

the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and leave the rest to the good pleasure of your Heavenly Father." \* \* \*

From Alfred to his grandfather Cookman :

"BALTIMORE, March 22, 1845.

"MY DEAR GRANDFATHER,—This day's mail has brought to hand a letter from Aunt Mary Ann, which has been the first to break the long-continued silence which has reigned for some months. In the perusal of her letter we were not a little gratified to learn that you still enjoy your accustomed health, and are able to attend to all the concerns of domestic life. Believing that it would afford you pleasure to hear from us, I have sat down and will write a few lines on what we would call the leading topics of the day.

"Well, in what condition are we as a country? What have we done, and what are we doing? I think we may with propriety be compared to the ocean: we have had the storm, and now the calm is beginning to succeed. For the last few months we have as a nation been torn with party strife, for from the tiny school-boy as well as the gray-headed old man have been heard sentiments, together with enthusiastic shouts, in honor of some favorite partisan. Meetings have been held frequently at which vast concourses of people have assembled, and where the talent of the country have been present to display their forensic powers. However, although I am favorable to party spirit where it can be kept within bounds, believing that it tends to keep alive a spirit of inquiry in the minds of the people in regard to those subjects connected with their country's welfare, yet when it reaches the height which it has here, and is productive of the same direful results, I, for one, would say, 'Subdue, and silence it.' It has been prostituted to the worst purposes. Men who have stood in our council-chambers, ever ready to second any effort that would conduce to the prosperity of the nation, and who, in very many instances, have been the originators of noble and useful measures, have had their characters defamed and their spotless reputations sullied and disgraced. But the evils of party spirit have not ended here. There has been the greatest amount of betting: thousands have been swallowed up in this greedy vortex, and, among a certain class of our citizens, that man who would bet the greatest amount has been considered a noble-hearted, generous fellow. At the large meetings of which I have spoken liquor has been used, occasioning drunkenness and riot. All these evils combined have presented to the virtuous and patriotic mind a sad and mournful picture.

"But the contest is over; the combatants have withdrawn from the field of party strife, and the champion of the victorious party has been awarded

the title of the President of the United States. All the various portions of society are beginning to turn their attention again to their daily avocations, and are bending all the energies of their minds toward amassing money or something else.

“The main question which now agitates our country is the subject of slavery. Not content with harassing us in our civil institutions, it has entered the borders of our Zion, and will, in all probability, effect a division. At our late session of Congress it was decreed to annex Texas to our Union. This, lying to the south of our Republic, and being itself a slave country, will be connected with Southern interests, who (the South) may insist on measures which may prove detrimental to the North, who, in turn, retaliating, may bring on that most-to-be-dreaded of all evils—civil war. Oh, grandfather, I regard the measure of Congress, in this point of view, as highly reprehensible. I believe that it will cast a dark stain on the fair escutcheon of our liberties, and that eventually it may prove the breaker on which the proud ship of state may be wrecked.

“In the Church a difficulty has arisen—whether it is in harmony with the spirit of Methodism for a bishop, who is called to all parts of the Union, to be the possessor of human property; and at the late session of the General Conference much time was spent on this question, which was finally decided in the negative. This decision has so enraged the Southern portion of the Church that they have declared that they will not submit to this (as they would term it) arbitrary measure, and they have called a General Conference, to be held in May next, to take steps toward division. What it will end in is for the future to develop. I trust that the Great Head of the Church will rule all things well; that He will adjust these difficulties, and bring all things to a happy termination. I had intended when I commenced my letter to be rather egotistic; but ideas on the subjects which I have alluded to have multiplied, and I have just recorded them. My next shall be more about myself and family. As we boys are accustomed to say, ‘*tempus et spatium*’ fail me, and I must close.”

The reader of these pages will readily forgive our young friend for his want of “egotism” in this letter, since more of him, as an observer of his times, is seen than any merely personal narrative could have given. It is evident that he was thoroughly alive to the stirring events of those days, in which party strife, both in State and Church, had reached the pitch that already foreboded the calamities into which the whole country was soon precipitated.



Thus at the age of seventeen he evinced a familiarity with public movements, a close sympathy with the welfare of the nation, and of the Church to which he belonged, which never forsook him. From this time onward he could be no indifferent citizen of the State or member of the Church. It was not in the nature of a soul so thoroughly human, and so richly imbued with the Master's spirit, to be a passive cipher in the midst of such active forces as those into which he was born and in which he grew up. It has been conjectured, in a most graphic delineation of his father, that the stirring, warlike spirit of Europe in the beginning of the nineteenth century, at the period of the father's birth, had much to do with his martial spirit as an orator. A heart more responsive to the weal of the nation and to the weal of the Church never throbbed than beat in the breast of Alfred Cookman; nor has there arisen among us a public man, whether in the pulpit or out of it, whose character was more affected by the reflected influence of these two objects. To those who knew so well the genuineness of his patriotism, and the unselfish zeal of his Methodism in later years, it is no unpleasant matter to get the peep at the early dawn of these two great passions which is afforded us by this letter. How like the temper of the perfected man, the sentiment, "I trust that the Great Head of the Church will rule all things well; that He will adjust these difficulties, and bring all things to a happy termination."

About this time, the year 1845, Alfred entered distinctively upon his evangelistic career; not, however, as a preacher, but as an earnest worker in Sabbath-school and missionary effort. A band of young men, most of whom were connected with the Charles Street Church, formed a mission to the seamen and poor children who frequented the upper docks of the harbor in Baltimore. Their hearts were touched with pity as they saw the large number of sailors, most of whom were confined to vessels doing business wholly in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay, and

who were back and forth very often, entirely destitute of the means of religious improvement. They first rented a small room at the head of Frederick Street Dock. This proving too limited, they removed to a more commodious and eligibly located one on Pratt Street, at the head of the Upper Basin. It was not the first time that Methodism began a good work in a "Sail Loft." The old Sail Loft, christened "the City Bethel," was the scene of the zealous labors of these devout young men on Sundays and week day evenings. Alfred was the youngest among them, but not least in graces and gifts. He was so powerfully affected by the "Bethel Fraternity," then and always for the shape and for the friendships it gave him, and those who constituted this band of generous youths have since come to such repute, and the immediate object for which they labored has come to such stability, that I offer from the pen of the Rev. T. H. Switzer, the first pastor of the City Bethel, a circumstantial account of the matter :

"The Baltimore City Bethel was the second organization of the kind in the city, its object was to reach sailors, watermen, and neglected children, who loitered about the wharfs on the Sabbath-day. It was called City Bethel to distinguish it from the Sailors' Union Bethel, of Fell's Point, Baltimore.

"The first Seamen's Bethel had been organized many years previous, chiefly by aged and experienced Christians of different denominations. The City Bethel was the point of youthful devotion to the cause of Christ. A number of young men, aided by a few older brethren, with a commendable zeal and desire to do good, began to inquire what could be done for Sabbath-breaking boatmen and neglected indigent children ; impelled by the same influence that moved the primitive preachers and reformers, they went out looking up the poor, neglected, and abandoned, and inviting them to a Sabbath-school and place of worship. The first year the society conducted its own meetings, assisted occasionally by a local or itinerant minister ;

the Sabbath afternoons were devoted to experience meetings, where many testified to the goodness of God in saving them from the jaws of death and hell. At these meetings many were convicted and led to seek the Saviour. The place of worship was a room about twenty feet broad and forty or fifty feet deep, situated at the head of and overlooking the City Basin.

"In less than a year it was entirely too small to accommodate those who attended the Sabbath-schools and divine worship, and the society purchased and fitted up the old time-honored ship *William Penn*, capable of accommodating six hundred persons. Rev. J. A. Collins, presiding elder of the Baltimore District, assisted by other ministers, dedicated this ship to the service of God. The Bethel was safely moored in the Basin, its flag waving from the mast-head, and service was held three times on the Sabbath. The Bethel, though not a denominational institution, was chiefly managed by the young men of our Church; class-meetings were held regularly during the week, led by the pastor; Sabbath morning and evening the pulpit was filled by the preacher in charge, in the afternoon his place was supplied by ministers of different denominations—Dr. J. Morris (Lutheran), Dr. Johns (Episcopal), Dr. Kurtz (Lutheran), Dr. E. Y. Reese (Protestant Methodist), and others, participating in the services. Prayer-meetings were held on one or two evenings of each week. From that old ship many a sailor carried a flame of love for Jesus into distant lands, and many whose calling was on land will bless God for what has been done for them through the instrumentality of the young men of this Bethel. The members of the society held their membership in some one of the city stations, but most of them belonged to the Charles Street M. E. Church, then in charge of Dr. Dorsey.

"I distinctly remember the names of Samuel Kramer, Gershom Broadbent, Robert Dryden, Thomas Dryden, William H. Chapman, Adam Wallace, John Landstreet, William Prettyman, Thomas Worthington, Brother Cristy, Brother Armstrong, C.

J. Thompson, and Alfred Cookman. Brother Samuel Kramer deserves honorable mention in this connection ; he was the oldest member of the association, and a local preacher ; he devoted much of his time and attention to the spiritual and financial interests of the society, and this interest he kept up for many years. Brother Alfred Cookman, although the youngest, was one of the most active and efficient members of the society ; at our regular monthly meetings to devise ways and means of advancing the interests of the association, he was always present, and took part in our deliberations and discussions. In the Sabbath-school, the experience meetings, and in the preaching of the Word, he manifested a lively interest. Soon after my appointment to the charge, an incident occurred which brought him particularly under my notice. Thomas Dryden, son of Joshua Dryden, after a protracted illness, fell asleep in Jesus. His death was deeply lamented by the society. His example was bright while he lived, and his death was signally triumphant. The friends of the deceased and members of the organization requested Brother Cookman to prepare a funeral discourse, which he did, and delivered in the lecture-room of the Charles Street Church. This was Alfred's first sermon, then in his seventeenth year. The discourse made a strong impression on the audience, and those present who are now living remember it to the present day. His call to the ministry was undoubted by those who heard him on that occasion.

“The sermon was delivered with much feeling, his enunciation was distinct, his language chaste and impressive, his illustrations forcible and appropriate ; his pathetic allusions to the deceased touched the tender chords of the hearts of many present. Those who were familiar with his father's method, and the character of his preaching, could not fail to discover in the younger Cookman traits that reminded them of that eminent minister of Christ, George G. Cookman.

“Alfred Cookman was at that time modest and unobtrusive

in manner, ardent in his feelings. His judgment was in advance of his years, his imagination was vivid, and illustration was successfully employed in his themes. In person he was slender, and his genial countenance wore the cheerful glow of sunshine.

“The Bethel ship was subsequently abandoned, but not until a good, substantial church edifice was erected on shore, within a few rods of the wharf where she had been moored. Whatever changes time shall develop in the history of this Bethel Church, its origin must be traced to the labors of these devoted sons of the prophets; numbers now living, both laymen and ministers, remember with pleasure their connection with the City Bethel. With gratitude to God we allude to a number of these young men who became able ministers of the New Testament, among whom are Robert Pattison, C. J. Thompson, Adam Wallace, John Landstreet, William Harden, William Chapman, and Alfred Cookman.”

The communication of Mr. Switzer has anticipated a little the fact which was to give direction to Alfred's future calling. From the incident of the funeral sermon, it is evident that an impression was already prevailing among his associates that he was “called to preach.” His selection by those who knew him most intimately for so important a service for their departed associate, shows that they not only believed him called of God to preach, but also the high estimation in which they held both his talents and his piety. It was a great mark of respect to be put upon a youth of seventeen years. His text on the occasion was, “To die is gain.” The general style and effect of the treatment have been described. The mind of the Church now distinctly pointed to him as a suitable person to preach the Gospel of Christ. The call to preach, among the Methodists, is regarded as a two-fold and simultaneous movement of the Holy Ghost upon the heart of the individual and upon the heart of the Church with which he is connected. However reserved

the person thus moved may be in withholding his impressions, the Church will be led, independently of any communication from him, to feel that he ought to take upon himself the office and work of the ministry. Many a young man who, in his modesty, has tried like Saul to hide himself among the stuff, ignorant that any one suspected his struggles of soul, has been drawn out of his hiding-place and thrust forth into the work. Such, too, has not unfrequently stood head and shoulders above his brethren.

The initial steps were taken in designating Alfred Cookman for the ministry November 1st, 1845, when he was licensed as an exhorter in the Methodist Episcopal Church by the official meeting of the Charles Street Station, Baltimore Conference, Edwin Dorsey preacher in charge. In less than a year from this time, on July 7th, 1846, he received from the Quarterly Conference of the same charge a license to preach, signed by the Rev. John A. Collins, as presiding elder. The preparation for the examination which he had to undergo before the Quarterly Conference was made wholly by himself. It was conducted very thoroughly by Mr. Collins, who, at its close, pronounced Alfred more proficient in the subjects comprised in the examination than any young man who had ever come before him for license. He was at this time an assistant teacher in a private academy; his work was arduous and confining, his social and religious engagements numerous, so that he must have studied diligently to attain such a clear understanding of the Scriptural proofs of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity.

George G. Cookman had thus early a successor in the ministry. Five years only had gone since the great light was quenched in the sea, and now in the person and office of the eldest born the work of illumination was to be continued. The deep emotions of the mother may be better imagined than expressed, as she saw her little Solomon recognized as God's chosen one, and designated by the Church to the great building to which

she had so sincerely consecrated him in childhood. To such a mother this hour for her first born was cause for richer joy and juster pride than if she had seen him selected for an earthly throne, or as the heir of the wealthiest man in the land. Of Alfred's own feelings at this important period of his career, but a limited statement is at command. In after years he made this reference to it: "At the age of eighteen I took up the silver trumpet which had fallen from the hand of my faithful father, and began to preach, in a very humble way, the everlasting Gospel." This allusion, and that found in the following letter to his grandfather, are enough to show the humility and earnestness with which he received the great commission. The letter also lets us into his anxious questionings as to his immediate future course. Its references to the late Rev. George C. M. Roberts, M.D., D.D., can not fail of grateful interest to the hosts of friends in Baltimore and elsewhere, who cherish with such affection and reverence the memory of that able and devout man. At once physician and local preacher, he ministered to the bodies and souls of thousands, and for the space of a quarter of a century wielded an influence in the community second to no other citizen.

From Alfred to his grandfather Cookman :

"BALTIMORE, July 7, 1846.

"A favorable opportunity for transmitting you a few lines has presented itself, inasmuch as Dr. Roberts, one of the most respected and esteemed members of our community, is about to depart for England, with the design of attending the World's Convention. This gentleman is a member of the medical profession in our city; in connection with this he is an official member in the Methodist Church, and has always evinced great zeal and energy in the promotion of every good and benevolent enterprise. I am sure that Baltimore possesses no son more highly esteemed and more generally loved than this brother, and it is on account of his noble and excellent qualities that he was unhesitatingly selected to represent the interests of what is termed "the city station" in this coming convention. He is a man of the deepest and most devoted piety, and an earnest anxiety for the prosperity

of Zion has prompted him to establish a Saturday-evening prayer-meeting, where Christians are accustomed to meet and pray, more especially for the sanctifying influences of God's spirit. At these meetings I have frequently been found, and have there eminently realized the presence of the King of kings and Lord of lords. I am sure you will be pleased with him. Possessed of a sweet, Christian-like spirit, affable and winning manners, and no small share of intellect, he secures for himself the affection and good-will of all with whom he is called to associate.

"As you are aware, I have been engaged in teaching for the last twelve months. I have not realized those sanguine expectations that I indulged when I entered upon this arduous employment; for I confidently hoped to do more in the improvement of my mind, while engaged in teaching, than I could possibly if my entire time were devoted to literary pursuits. I thought that, while instructing youths, I should effect a review of old studies, and that between schools I could devote myself to mental labor or literary acquisition; but, alas! alas! my hopes have proved vain, and I have not reached that point in the hill of science whither my aspirations would have led me. The school in which I am engaged as assistant has been small, and made up principally of boys who were in the very first rudiments of science; and day after day my duties have been to hear the little urchin repeat his task either in spelling, geography, arithmetic, or some other minor branch, all of which it would be almost impossible to forget; and thus I, of course, have not realized my first expectation. Although these my scholars had progressed but little, though their attainments were but limited, I felt it to be my duty to devote myself with as much assiduity and energy to their improvement as if I had heard them every day recite an ode of Horace or a section of Homer. The consequence has been that, when after having performed my duties I have returned home and retired to my own study, I have experienced a general prostration of my entire system. My nerves have been unstrung, my energies paralyzed, and I have had no spirit to proceed with study. I must not, I can not consistently say, that I have made no additions to my stock during the year. Many theological works I have carefully perused, and think that I am pretty well grounded in the fundamentals of divinity. During the year I felt it to be my duty to assume a more responsible station, namely, that of a minister of the everlasting Gospel. Frequently I have stood up in the sacred desk to expound the oracles of God; and, in declaring the unsearchable riches of Christ, in dwelling upon the amazing love and infinite condescension of the Saviour in redemption, my own soul has been warmed, and I have realized that in dispensing the Gospel I receive much of Heaven's comfort.



“I have been seriously considering which would be the best course for me to pursue in the future. My engagements with Mr. L. will terminate in a few days, and I do not feel disposed to shackle myself for the coming year as I certainly have during the past. I have sought the counsel of some of my father’s tried friends, as, for instance, Messrs. Hodgson, Durbin, Thompson, and others, and they advise me to enter the itinerant field, assuring me that I will not only have more time, but more disposition to study. I have calmly and dispassionately weighed this advice, and think it is good; that perhaps it would be to my advantage, in an intellectual point of view, as well as the consideration that, in the hands of God, I might be made useful.”

Alfred’s mother, in referring to his habits at this date of his life, says, “He very early threw in his efforts (with others) to work among a class of degraded human beings, who were drunkards, and were almost taken out of the gutters. His young voice was often heard in denunciation and earnest entreaties for them to turn from sin and become new men in Christ Jesus. With what zeal and earnestness did he follow these poor outcasts! Alfred was very exact in the distribution of his time. He had to depend, in a great measure, on his own efforts. He felt himself a fatherless youth, and had very ardent yearnings to acquire knowledge, and to prepare himself to fill a useful and honorable position in life. Thus he became a very diligent student in the various departments constituting a thorough scholar. In Latin, Greek, German, and French, he was very proficient, and his knowledge in the arts and sciences was considerable. Even at the age of twelve his father acknowledged he was farther advanced in those branches than he was himself at the age of eighteen. Humility and timidity were two of his peculiar characteristics, which kept him from any thing like display or assumption.”

Subsequently to his license to preach, and before leaving Baltimore, he preached frequently. His friend, Mr. Samuel Kramer, a local preacher, would take him to his country appointments contiguous to the city, and would have him supply for him. All the opportunities he could desire, and more per-

haps than was prudent for so young a beginner, were opened to him. His engagements were constantly up to the full measure of his strength and his time. In the best pulpits of the city his services were accepted, and in the best society of the city his company was eagerly sought. The name he bore was hallowed to the people. They were prepared, for his father's and mother's sake, to listen to his words and to love his character. But he was every thing in himself that was attractive—one of the most engaging youths who ever stood in a sacred desk or moved among a circle of friends. There was a freshness and healthfulness of physique, an openness of physiognomy, a spiritual beauty, a ripeness of culture, a manifest piety, a gracefulness of movement, and a native eloquence which won all hearts; and from this early day until his death there was no minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church who could draw together a larger crowd of ardent, admiring hearers in the city of Baltimore than Alfred Cookman. A halo invested him from the beginning to the end of his career.

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE YOUTHFUL PASTOR.—HIS FIRST CIRCUIT.

BUT the time had now come when plans for the more regular and permanent exercise of his ministry began seriously to agitate him. We have already seen from his last letter that thoughts of a collegiate course had been entertained and discussed. It appears that the counsels of his father's closest friends were adverse to this, and favorable to an immediate entrance upon the itinerant ministry.

The question may have come to others as to myself: Why did not Mrs. Cookman settle in Carlisle after the death of her husband, where she could have had for her sons the training of Dickinson College? She had lived there—cherished many pleasant memories of the town and its people—had a scholarship of five hundred dollars—and it was proposed to her to go there; but her health was too feeble to allow it. When residing there she was nearly disabled by the climate, and she could not venture to live in it again. Why, then, did she not send Alfred? Simply because her purpose was fixed not to separate her children while they were in process of education. She wished them all at home, and at that time she needed Alfred as really as he needed her. She thought and acted for herself in the matter. She was afraid to trust her boy at college away from her, and since she could not accompany him, it was decided he must do the best he could with such facilities as Baltimore afforded. Mrs. Cookman honored learning much, but she revered goodness more. She may have taken counsel of her fears, but the wisdom of her decision none can presume to question till the records of the son's life are unfolded in eternity.

Certainly the results of his ministry are not such as to leave room for many regrets on the ground of greater possible usefulness. What he was we know ; what he might have been with the influences of the broader culture which comes of the studies and associations of the college we can not fully conjecture. A more liberal education, prosecuted at greater length, would probably have rendered him different, in some respects, from what he was as a man and as a preacher, but it is extremely doubtful if it could have rendered him more intense in his personal and ministerial influence. In the cry for scholars, we are too apt to forget that it is not so much ideas as their application ; not so much new truths as the practice of old truths ; not so much thinkers as actors—men of deeds—that the great world needs. A man to move and mould the people must be a man of positive convictions, be the circle of his knowledge never so small, rather than a critical investigator.

Alfred Cookman was capable of becoming a scholar of a high order, but he chose to narrow the sphere of his studies to the subjects which nourished his own soul satisfactorily, which he felt would make him most useful as a pastor, and it was the thoroughness with which his intellect grasped these, and the heartiness with which he believed them, that gave him in his domain so marked an ascendancy over the minds of the people. So that I am frank to acknowledge that if a collegiate education (taking education in its multiplex sense) would have made his ministry different from what it was, I can scarcely see how it could have made it more useful. I fear the contrary might have been the result. Upon the whole, it is quite safe to assume, where the sincerest efforts are made by those who have the shaping of Christ's chosen instruments, that their course is about such as God orders, and in the outcome is the best for them and for His Church.

The point being settled that the young evangelist should at once make full proof of his ministry by entering the regular pastorate, the next question for decision was, "What conference

shall he join?" Some of his friends urged him strongly to seek admission into the Baltimore Conference, while others as strongly urged the advantages of the Philadelphia. It would have been natural for him to remain where he was, but the reasons for going to Philadelphia were controlling. His former and much-beloved teacher, the Rev. Robert Pattison, had joined that conference ; several of his young associates, such as Charles J. Thompson and Adam Wallace, preferred it ; his father had first united with it, and he wished, as far as possible, to follow in his footsteps.

But, as usual, the mother's judgment turned the scales. There were better schools and better opportunities of business in Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania was a free state. Her repugnance to slavery made her adverse to rearing her children in contact with it. There was another consideration which weighed with her possibly more than all others : she felt the time had come when she must give herself more fully to the care of her children. So numerous and pressing were her social and religious engagements, that she found it quite impossible to impart the instruction and sympathy which their increasing years demanded. She was expected to be prominent in every benevolent movement of the ladies, to attend all their prayer-meetings, to be present at their social entertainments—indeed, to be foremost in every good word and work, and with only very limited means at her command ; to superintend personally a large family of children, all of whom were boys but the youngest—these must be paragons of neatness, propriety, and intelligence—and she must be universal mother and sister in the fellowship of joy and in the fellowship of pain to all who needed her counsel or sought her sympathy. It could not be : she must go back again to the old position, when she elected to fashion men rather than to be a missionary. While, therefore, her heart was deeply attached to Baltimore and to its loving, noble Christians, she determined that, for her family's sake, she must cut herself loose from their

companionship, and seek, in another city and amid new scenes, to enter upon a course of more exclusive devotion to home nurture.

Early in the autumn of 1846 the household goods were stored in a canal-boat and shipped to Philadelphia. The family soon followed, and within a few weeks were snugly at housekeeping on Race Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Streets. Alfred had already been requested by the Rev. James McFarland, presiding elder of one of the Philadelphia districts, to supply the place of Rev. D. D. Lore, who had been appointed missionary to Buenos Ayres, on Attleboro Circuit, Bucks County, under the charge of the Rev. James Hand. He accepted the invitation, and so soon as the family were settled, and he had procured the necessary outfit, he started for the "appointment." His horse he named "Gery," in honor of his friend Gershom Broadbent of Baltimore. Gery became a great pet with him and with all the brothers and the little sister. Alfred and Gery were much talked about at home, and their joint arrival on a visit was henceforth hailed as the brightest day which could dawn on Philadelphia. Many were the caresses which Gery got from little Mary, and George, Frank, Will, and John were not slow to test the mettle of their brother's faithful companion.

It was a proud hour when the young preacher, leaving his mother's door, with her blessing on his head and her warm kiss upon his lips, springing into his saddle, hied away over the hills to his first pastoral charge. What a pang it must have cost him to part with that loving parent, to leave brothers and sister, who had clung to him as a father, and to go off among total strangers! But though young, and sensitive even to feminine delicacy, he had the hopes of youth to cheer him. His heart was full of zeal for the Master's glory, and the romantic interest which belongs to an earnest nature in the first commencement of a chosen and chivalrous career. On the mother's part, his devotement to the work was one of pure self-sacrifice; and

as she saw him ride away, in the first act which was forever to take him from her roof, the light went out of her eyes and the joy from her heart. But she made the surrender cheerfully, thanking God that He had "counted him worthy—putting him into the ministry." She could not, however, let him go without salutary advice—advice which he never forgot, and which became a watch-cry in his ministry. Here is his reference to the occasion: "Quitting about this time one of the happiest of homes to enter the itinerant work, my excellent mother remarked just upon the threshold of my departure, 'My son, if you would be supremely happy or extremely useful in your work, you must be an entirely sanctified servant of Jesus.' It was a cursory suggestion, perhaps forgotten almost as soon as expressed; nevertheless, applied by the Spirit, it made the profoundest impression upon my mind and heart. Oh, the value of single sentences which any one may utter in the ordinary intercourse of life! Sermons and exhortations are frequently forgotten, while the wish or counsel simply and precisely expressed will abide, to lead us into clearer light. Let this fact, which will find an illustration in many experiences, serve to stimulate and encourage even the feeblest to speak for Jesus. My mother's passing but pointed remark followed me like a good angel as I moved to and fro in my first sphere of itinerant life."

To Alfred the parting advice of his mother seemed only like a cursory remark, but it was cursory only in its natural and unstudied utterance. Such counsel dropped from her lips as the ripe fruit at a chance moment from the tree, or sweetness exhales from the flower. "The best thoughts do not come to us except gradually." This thought of Mrs. Cookman was the condensed experience of years, and, packed in a single maxim, it fell gently into the ear and heart of the son. In this seed-truth was germinally the whole substance and form of what she meant and wished his life to be—the utmost usefulness and happiness as branches, foliage, and fruits growing on the stock

of holiness. In the first sphere and in the last of his itinerant life, that parting advice followed him. The Spartan matron charged her sons, when going to battle, to come back with their shields or to be brought back on them. Alfred Cookman never parted with the shield his mother gave him ; he went into and returned from many battles with it, and when at length he fell, it is evident that on it he was borne to heaven.

Attleboro Circuit lay among the hills of Bucks County, Pa., and embraced in its territory a fine rural district. It obliged a good deal of traveling and much hard work from the youthful minister. The social status of Methodism was not so high as he had been accustomed to in the cities, and, although he met with great kindness from the people, he missed many comforts which he had hitherto deemed quite necessary to his well-being. But he shrunk from no duty, however hard, and no work which lay in his way. Among the youths whom he had found on removing to Philadelphia was Andrew Longacre, now the Rev. Andrew Longacre, of the New York Conference. They soon felt themselves to be kindred spirits, and very speedily there sprang up between them a friendship which grew closer with maturing years, and has constituted one of the most profitable and lovely of human attachments. Andrew was younger by three years, but Alfred gave him his whole heart. The following letter is a proof of this affection, and also a fair exhibit of the circuit life. It discloses to us the dutiful service he was ready to render as a "junior preacher," the fidelity with which amid bodily ailments he stood to his post, and also the zest with which, though now a grave minister, he could enter into the pleasantries of his young friend :

"NEW TOWN, February 22, 1847.

"MY DEAR FRIEND ANDREW,—I had intended to reply to your interesting and affectionate letter some days since, but circumstances have been of a character to prevent me. Not only have I had the duties of a protracted meeting devolving upon me, but within the last few days I have



necessarily been obliged to travel a good deal, in compliance with the wishes of my colleague. On Friday last, in conjunction with his expressed desire, I procured a covered wagon and a pair of horses, and, assisted by a teamster, proceeded to bring a table that had been constructed in New Hope to this village, the place of its destination. The distance is about twelve miles, and the road being exceedingly bad, owing to the continued wet weather, we were about three hours in accomplishing the journey. During the day I got my feet very wet, and on my return was so thoroughly chilled that I apprehended a severe cold. My surmises proved but too true, for, after passing a rather disagreeable night—my slumbers being disturbed—I rose in the morning threatened with my old complaint. I had promised the day previous that I would return to New Town, and, if necessary, would endeavor to preach on Saturday evening in Attleboro. Not willing to sacrifice my word, I very imprudently again left New Hope in an open sulky, and with great difficulty reached New Town, when I was obliged to alight and lie down. I found, from the state of my feelings, that it would be impracticable and impossible for me to proceed any farther. Debility and pain seemed to have seized my entire system, and I was sick—*very sick*. My colleague came in, and very kindly consented to put away and take charge of my horse, and thought, from my symptoms, that I should at once see a doctor. He soon arrived, dosed me with laudanum and castor-oil, said he would call again, and hoped that I would soon be better. In the unbounded mercy and undeserved goodness of my Heavenly Father, I have been almost entirely restored; and though I feel a little debilitated and suffer a little pain, yet still I hope very soon again to plunge into the battle and fight valiantly for my God.

“But what am I doing? Here I have filled up a page and a half with an account of the state of my physical system: something that must be as uninteresting as unprofitable to you. Since I left my Philadelphia friends (friends that I regard with feelings of peculiar tenderness), I have almost constantly been engaged in active service for my Master. Almost every evening has found me upon the battle-plain, surrounded by a devoted few, and arrayed against the armies of the aliens. My ear has been saluted not by the clash of arms, the roar of cannon, the shrieks of the wounded and dying, but, thank God, by something infinitely sweeter, nobler, and more delightful. Night after night I have heard the sweet hymn of praise gushing warm from the Christian's grateful heart; the fervent and importunate prayer from him hungering and thirsting after righteousness; the hearty exclamation, ‘God be merciful to me, a sinner,’ from him who regarded sin as a burden too intolerable to be borne; the transporting accent trembling upon the lips of the newly regenerated creature, ‘Glory! Glory! I *do* love Jesus,

for He has taken my feet from the mire and the clay, and He has planted them on the rock of ages.' I praise the Lord for what I have enjoyed in my own soul ; the flame of heaven's love has been burning brightly upon the altar of my heart, and these circumstances to which I have made allusion, viz., the conversion of my fellow-mortals, has been like fuel thrown upon the fire to add to the power and brilliancy of the flame. I often look at myself, Andrew, and when I call to mind my manifold shortcomings and repeated backslidings, when I remember my constant wanderings, both to the right hand and to the left, I am lost in wonder and astonishment that my Saviour should be so kind and good as to lavish upon me such unnumbered and undeserved blessings, that He should choose me as one of His creature instruments to extend the honor of the Redeemer's name, I need and earnestly desire to love Him more and serve Him better, to have every power of my nature consecrated upon the altar of His cause ; in a word, to be sanctified throughout, soul, body, and spirit ; for I verily believe that, if we would be eminently useful as well as supremely happy, we must love God with all our soul, mind, and strength. I certainly should feel very happy if I thought I had so secured your confidence as to prompt you feelingly and conscientiously to array my poor unworthy self with so many noble and excellent qualities. Perhaps that sentence was penned, like many of my own, from impulse, for I am sure that were you to bestow upon me the least scrutiny, my deformities, physical, mental, and moral, would induce you to start back astonished. One thing, though, is perfectly certain. I love my friends, and I covet their esteem and regard.

"You inquire with regard to the number of valentines transmitted and received by myself—if less than a hundred, you require the exact number ; if more, a general estimate. Now, Andrew, take out your Arithmetic, and refer to the numeration table. Are you ready ? If so, commence ; but take care not to proceed with units, tens, and hundreds, but rather go the other way, and when you reach the enormous and inconceivable quantity of '*none*,' you shall be pronounced correct. Yes, Andrew, I received *none*. Had I possessed all those peculiar characteristics which your friendly epistle would seem to indicate, I am almost sure that some fair hand would have penned a declaration of esteem and love. You inquire if I regard it as sinful. Certainly not. I look upon it as perfectly innocent, an amusement that all may indulge in without incurring a sense of condemnation, if the valentines are only of the proper kind."

All who remember the expression of genuine modesty which Alfred Cookman's face always wore, will appreciate the self-

deprecating reference with which he meets his friend's tribute to his personal qualities. I can almost see the girlish blush which mantles his youthful brow at the mention of these excellences. But the feature of this first letter in his ministerial life which is most significant is the ardent breathings which it manifests for entire consecration to God. The leaven of his mother's advice was already working. Circumstances were close at hand which were distinctly to impress his whole subsequent career. In the providence of God he was thus early brought into contact with influences which gave definitive shape to his views and experiences on the great doctrine which was henceforth to occupy so much of his thoughts, and to the maintenance and propagation of which his talents and time were to be so signally and so successfully devoted. He shall speak for himself:

"Frequently I felt to yield myself to God, and pray for the grace of entire sanctification ; but then this experience would lift itself in my view as a mountain of glory, and I would say it is not for me, I could not possibly scale that shining summit ; and if I could, my besetments and trials are such I could not successfully maintain so lofty a position. While thus exercised in mind Bishop Hamline, accompanied by his devoted wife, came to New Town, one of the principal appointments on the circuit, that he might dedicate a church which we had been erecting for the worship of God. Remaining about a week, he not only preached again and again, and always with the unction of the Holy One, but took occasion to converse with me pointedly respecting my religious experience. His gentle and yet dignified bearing, devotional spirit, beautiful Christian example, unctuous manner, divinely illuminated face, apostolic labor and fatherly counsels, made the profoundest impression on my mind and heart. I heard him as one sent from God, and certainly he was ; his influence, so hallowed and blessed, has not only remained with me ever since, but even seems to increase as I pass along in my sublunary pilgrimage. Oh, how I bless and

praise God for the life and labors of the beloved Bishop Hamline !

“One week-day afternoon, after a most delightful discourse, he urged us to seize the opportunity, and *do* what we had often desired and resolved and promised to do, viz., ‘as believers yield ourselves to God as those who were alive from the dead, and from that hour trust in Jesus as our Saviour from all sin.’ Kneeling by myself, I brought an entire consecration to the altar. But some one will say, ‘Had you not done that at the time of your conversion?’ I answer, Yes ! but with this difference—then I brought powers dead in trespasses and sin, now I would consecrate powers permeated with the new life of regeneration, I would offer myself a living sacrifice ; then I gave myself away, but now, with the increased illumination of the Spirit, I felt that my surrender was more intelligent and specific and careful—it was my hands, my feet, my senses, my attributes of mind and heart, my hours, my energies, my reputation, my worldly substance, my every thing, without reservation or limitation. Then I was anxious for pardon, but now my desire and faith compassed something more—I wanted the conscious presence of the Sanctifier in my heart. Carefully consecrating every thing, I covenanted with my own heart and with my heavenly Father that this entire but unworthy offering should remain upon the altar, and henceforth I will please God by believing that the altar (Spirit) sanctifieth the gift. Do you ask what was the immediate effect ? I answer peace—a broad, deep, full, satisfying, and sacred peace. This proceeded not only from the testimony of a good conscience before God, but likewise from the presence and operation of the Spirit in my heart. Still I could not say that I was entirely sanctified, except as I had sanctified myself to God.

“The following day, finding Bishop and Mrs. Hamline, I ventured to tell them of my consecration and faith in Jesus, and in the confession realized increasing light and strength. A little

while after it was proposed by Mrs. Hamline that we spend a season in prayer. Prostrated before God, one and another prayed ; and while thus engaged, God for Christ's sake gave me the Spirit as I had never received it before, so that I was constrained to conclude and confess 'that the great work of heart-purity that I have so often prayed and hoped for is wrought in me—even in me. Wonderful ! God does sanctify my soul. I can not doubt it—oh no !

“ ‘Thou dost this moment save,  
With full salvation bless ;  
Redemption through Thy blood I have,  
And spotless love and peace.’

“The evidence in my case was as direct and indubitable as the witness of sonship vouchsafed at the time of my adoption into the family of heaven. Need I say that the experience of sanctification inaugurated a new epoch in my religious life ? Some of the characteristics of this higher life were blessed rest in Jesus, a clearer and more abiding experience of purity through the blood of the Lamb. What a conscious union and constant communion with God ! What increased power to do and to suffer the will of my Father, a steadier growth in grace, what delight in the Master's service, what fear to grieve the infinitely Holy Spirit, what love for and desire to be with those who love holiness, what access and confidence in prayer, what interest and comfort in religious conversation, what illumination and joy in the perusal of the blessed Word, what increased unction and power in the pulpit.”

Such is the account of his entire sanctification by the Holy Spirit, given by this servant of Christ after more than a dozen years had elapsed ; and when, if sober reflection could have corrected the errors of youth, it might be supposed it would have done so. Who can read a statement so simple and straightforward, so evidently faithful to the exercises of the soul, and so entirely consistent with the statements of conver-

sion and restoration he had previously made with so much candor and explicitness, and for a moment question the fact of the remarkable change which he here records? Shall we receive the testimony to the change which occurred when "all alone with Jesus" in the church at Carlisle; shall we accept the testimony to his ecstatic joy when, with a renewed sense of pardon, he leaped into his father's arms at the camp-meeting near Washington, and reject or doubt this testimony to the experience of "heart purity," the evidence of which he affirms was as direct and indubitable as the witness of sonship at the time of his adoption? Certainly he was as capable of understanding the correctness of the workings of his self-consciousness in the one case as in the other, and also of interpreting these workings in the light of Holy Scripture. Here we see the same definiteness as there; now, as then, he seeks for a distinct blessing, which he thinks is comprehended in the provisions and promises of the Gospel, and in answer to his faith it is given, accompanied with its appropriate evidence.

This blessing, the witness to which was immediate and direct, did not pass away in a moment; it did not subside with the occasion, as any casual emotion might do, but was abiding, and constituted an "epoch" in his experience, attended with characteristics which he had time to mark and prove. While I freely allow that the consciousness of the believer can not be an original source of doctrine, yet I must admit that when a doctrine is taught by fair inference in the Word of God, whether by command or by promise, or as matter of history, the testimony of consciousness in the living believer is authoritative, and must be accepted in the case of that particular believer, and as an index to all who claim a similar experience.

Mr. Wesley's attention to this great subject was first arrested, when he was forty-one years of age, by the profession of those who affirmed that they had experienced "salvation from all sin." He examined them carefully, and, though he was slow to

credit their testimony at first, he was finally constrained to accept it. Speaking of one such, he said, "If he can solemnly and deliberately answer in the affirmative" (certain test-questions which he had asked), "why do I not rejoice and praise God on his behalf? Perhaps because I have an exceeding complex notion of sanctification or a sanctified man. And so, for fear he should not have attained all I include in that idea, I can not rejoice in what he has attained."\* In reviewing the same subject near the close of his life, Mr. Wesley wrote:

"In the years 1759 to 1762 their numbers" (those who professed deliverance from sin) "multiplied exceedingly, not only in London and Bristol, but in various parts of Ireland as well as England. Not trusting to the testimony of others, I carefully examined most of these myself, and in London alone I found 652 members of our Society who were exceeding clear in their experience, and of whose testimony I could see no reason to doubt. I believe no year has passed since that time, wherein God has not wrought the same work in many others, and every one of them (without a single exception) has declared that his deliverance from sin was *instantaneous*; that the change was wrought in a moment. Had half of these, or one third, or one in twenty, declared it was *gradually* wrought in *them*, I should have believed this, with regard to *them*, and thought that *some* were gradually sanctified and some instantaneously. But as I have not found in so long a space of time a single person speaking thus, I can not but believe that sanctification is commonly, if not always, an *instantaneous* work."†

Thus while Mr. Wesley believed and preached Christian perfection as a doctrine of the Bible and a duty of believers, he was incredulous as to its actual attainment in any particular instance until fully satisfied by the testimony of those whom he

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\* Tyerman's Life and Times of Wesley, vol. i., p. 462. Harper & Brothers, New York.

† Wesley's Works, vol. vi., p. 464.

had every reason to credit. Such was the common-sense way in which he dealt with all questions. To the long line of those who in the history of Methodism have lived as witnesses to this blessed experience, now was added a young herald of the Cross, who was destined, by his clear and forcible teachings, and by the eminent sanctity of his character, to do as much for its illustration, revival, and spread in this land as any other man of the last twenty-five years. It is not surprising that he should have ever after cherished the highest respect and the warmest affection for Bishop and Mrs. Hamline. As expressive of this feeling, and as bearing upon this period of his life, I anticipate, by an extract, a letter written to Mrs. Hamline a little more than a year before his death.

To Mrs. Bishop Hamline, of Evanston, Illinois:

“DESPLAINES, ILLINOIS, August 19, 1870.

“I am greatly disappointed in my failure to see you during this visit to the Northwest. Indeed, one of my cherished hopes in coming to this region was an interview with yourself. Your influence in the past links itself with my spiritual rest and Christian usefulness now, and will be an occasion of praise forever and ever. The name of Hamline, next to the name of Cookman, is the choicest jewel in the casket of my affectionate remembrance. Yourself and your dear husband were the instruments under God of leading me out into the clear light of full salvation. How I delight and dwell in my musings upon the memory of the beloved Bishop Hamline—his angelic face—his apostolic bearing—his unctuous words. It was after a sermon that fell from his precious lips, preached in an afternoon, that I carefully and intelligently consecrated all I had and hoped for to God. The entire consecration with faith in Jesus brought peace—deep, full, sacred, blessed peace; but it was not until the following day, when you and I were praying together (most probably you forget it), that the witness came clearly, strongly, and satisfactorily that I was wholly sanctified through the power of the Holy Ghost. With me now as at that epochal time in my history, my heart turns toward you *with an unutterable interest and love*. May our kind Heavenly Father bless you with abounding consolations. You must soon realize the joy of reunion with the glorified, and, more than this, the beatific vision of Jesus. Oh may I not hope to be associated with you and dear Bishop Hamline in the many mansioned home?”



## CHAPTER VIII.

### FROM COUNTRY TO CITY.—TRIP TO ENGLAND.

THE annual session of the Philadelphia Conference was held in the spring of 1847, at Wilmington, Delaware. Bishop Hamline presided. Alfred Cookman, having finished up his work, repaired to the seat of the Conference. He was an applicant for admission into the Conference, in company with a large number of young men, most of whom were his personal friends. The Conference was very full, it being found difficult to station all the preachers, and so, at the advice of the presiding bishop, it was voted to receive none "on trial." This was a sore disappointment to our young friend, as it was to others applying. He had preached at least a half-year under the presiding elder, and now to be obliged to do so an additional year was somewhat grievous. The policy of such a procedure on the part of a Conference is always of doubtful expediency, and sometimes may be very unjust and injurious to the parties and to the work. The young minister, however, had consecrated himself to the Master's cause, according to the order of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Church of his father; and so, bowing gracefully to the decision of the Conference, he accepted again a position under the presiding elder, and entered cheerfully upon it. He was appointed by the Rev. Daniel Lambdin to the Delaware City Circuit, in the State of Delaware, with the Rev. Robert McNarmee for his preacher in charge.

Before I follow him to his new circuit, an important fact in his inward life must be stated. It will be remembered that his early religious experience received a check upon the occasion of his removal from Carlisle to Washington. His later expe-

rience received a similar but a more prolonged check during this session of the Conference. The explanation is best given in his own words. They are a continuation of the published narrative before quoted from : "Oh that I could conclude just here these allusions to personal experience with the simple addition that my life to the present has answered to the description of endless progress regulated by endless peace! Fidelity to truth, however, with a solicitude that others may profit by my errors, constrains me to add another paragraph of my personal testimony. Have you ever known a sky full of sunshine—the power of a beautiful day subsequently obscured by lowering clouds? Have you ever known a jewel of incalculable value to its owner lost through culpable carelessness? Alas! that so bright a morning in my spiritual history should not have shone more and more unto the perfect day; that I should, under any circumstances, have carelessly parted with this pearl of personal experience. Eight weeks transpired—weeks of light, strength, love, and blessing; Conference came on; I found myself in the midst of beloved brethren; forgetting how easily the infinitely Holy Spirit might be grieved, I allowed myself to drift into the spirit of the hour; and, after an indulgence in foolish joking and story-telling, realized that I had suffered serious loss. To my next field of labor I proceeded with consciously diminished spiritual power."

His mind went under a cloud; not only did he lose the evidence of perfect love, but there followed its loss serious questionings as to the possibility of the experience which he had professed. There is always a tendency to depress the standard of Truth to the personal experience. It is not surprising, therefore, to find him using the following language: "Perhaps, to satisfy my conscience, I began to favor the argument of those who insisted that sanctification, as a work of the Holy Spirit, could not involve an experience distinct from regeneration." Such was the candor and caution with which he referred

to a subject which was ever to him cause of sincere regret. The heart so imperceptibly colors the opinions of every man that it is exceedingly difficult to have views which are wholly freed from its influence. It is well-nigh impossible to look at Truth with clear discrimination independently of its effects upon the affections. Hence the Bible makes the inward experience the interpreter of its meaning: "Whoso is born of God hath the witness in himself." There may be a dogmatic acceptance of the doctrine of regeneration, but there can be no adequate conviction of its reality until the soul by the change wrought in it receives the attest of its truth. Talk as we may of the objective truth of God's Word contained in the Holy Scriptures, that objective truth needs the accompanying witness of a believing, living self-consciousness, as contained in the Church, the Body of Christ, in order that it may be understood and felt as the power of the Holy Ghost unto salvation. The key which unlocks the secret wards of its spiritual treasury is the experience of the child of God. When the experience of the Church is high, the meaning put upon Christian doctrine is positive; when the experience is low, the meaning is correspondingly vague; the decay of inward life is marked by a decay of orthodoxy, and its rise by a return to evangelical faith. Yet I can not but admire the conscientious qualifying "*perhaps*" with which our friend states his impression of the probable bias which the lapse in his spiritual life may have imparted to his judgment.

This revelation is the more painful, in that the session of Conference, which should have been the means of establishing him in the "faith," became the means of unsettling him. He does not blame his brethren for it—only he allowed himself to be betrayed into undue levity. Methodist preachers, when they come together at the Conference after a year's separation, feel the buoyancy of spirit which instinctively arises from a sudden respite from pastoral cares; the gratification which is in-

spired by the greeting of old friends. Their system of itinerancy, according to which no man has any particular Church, and in the changes of which they regard themselves as candidates for each other's fields of labor, binds them into a closer unity of fellowship, and "a fellow-feeling makes them wondrous kind;" and so at their great festival they very naturally unbend in each other's company. Their observation is over a broad territory, they have mingled freely with all classes of people, their wits have been sharpened by contact with the shrewdest of mankind; and, with an infinite fund of anecdote, it is not surprising that their conversation should be flavored with incidents both grave and gay.

It may be one of the provisions of divine benevolence that the minds who see most clearly and feel most deeply the sins and misfortunes of the race do also see and feel most keenly their oddities; so that nothing is more common than for the sense of humor to be closely allied with the sense of devotion, and thus the gravity which would be so weighty as to overwhelm is lightened by an elastic gayety. That this gift may be abused is unquestionable; and that Methodist ministers, like other good people in an unwary hour, under the sway of exuberant enjoyment, may forget themselves, is possible. Beyond doubt there is too much trifling conversation at such times among them; and yet much depends upon the man himself, and upon the schooling of his conscience. Whatever effect the conversations of these "beloved brethren" had upon themselves, upon Alfred it was deleterious. His delicate conscience, all the more susceptible because of his recent higher experience, and for want of free intercourse with his brethren since he received it, was wounded, his religious life in his own estimation was harmed, and sank to a lower plane, on which it continued through some years afterward.

The new circuit was found to be very congenial. From a lady who knew him well, and between whom and himself there

was a pleasant friendship, Mrs. L. A. Battershall, of New York, I have received the following reference to his character and work at this time:

“Numbered with the most pleasant memories of the by-gone are my recollections of the Rev. Alfred Cookman. After his appointment to Delaware City Circuit, he was a frequent guest at the hospitable home of a relative, whom I was then visiting. Domiciled beneath the same roof, ample opportunity was thus afforded me of observing his habitual deportment in the daily amenities of life. He was richly endowed by nature with a genial spirit, and an ease and grace of manner which eminently fitted him to shine as the centre of the social circle, and yet I never knew him betrayed into a levity unbecoming a minister of the Gospel of Christ.

“Delaware City Circuit at that time embraced quite a portion of the wealthy agricultural district of New Castle County, Delaware, and was populated by a people of more than ordinary intelligence. To all classes of this population young Cookman came as the messenger of life. His young heart burned with love for souls. He went from his closet to the pulpit, and, thus panoplied with power, it is no marvel that the multitudes which from Sabbath to Sabbath hung upon the earnest pleadings of his eloquent lips for their salvation, regarded him as a royal ambassador from the Court of the Most High.”

The year, according to this testimony, passed profitably and pleasantly, as he glided about from village to village and home to home among a devout and hospitable people. In those days it was not customary for the young preacher to have any fixed boarding-place on the circuit. No appropriation was made to pay his board, but he was expected to “stay around” among the families, remaining longest where it was most congenial, or where, from the means and kindness of the families, he could be rendered most comfortable, and found the greatest facilities for reading and study. Sometimes the young preacher would

be so fortunate as to have one or more such homes at each of the churches. Occasionally he could arrange to spend most of his time at one central home, where his books and wardrobe—if he were rich beyond the contents of his saddle-bags—could remain, and where he was always made heartily welcome. Nothing could exceed the cordiality with which the families at these homes greeted and entertained their young minister. The best room was at his disposal, the richest products of farm and garden, the choicest poultry from the swarming broods, were put before him. His appearance on horseback or in sulky at the road-gate was the signal for a prompt and general raid on the barn-yard. Lucky was the chicken which could discern the enemy from afar, and, timely warned, could make tracks for some hiding-place before the fury of urchin or dog fell upon its hapless head. At the protracted and quarterly meetings these homes became the gathering-points of the ministers and official members of the circuit, occasions of happy reunions, and of deep spiritual as well as social enjoyment.

At the session of the Conference in the spring of 1848, Alfred Cookman was again an applicant for admission, and was received in company with William H. Brisbane, Charles J. Thompson, Jacob Dickerson, George Maddux, Adam Wallace, William Walton, William Major, John Hough, Curtis F. Turner, Samuel R. Gillingham, Jeremiah Pastorfield, David Price, and William B. Mezick. His first appointment in the minutes occurs this year, to Germantown Circuit, which included Germantown and Chestnut Hill. The Rev. James A. Massey was his presiding elder. The circuit comprised a very beautiful suburban region of Philadelphia. Germantown and Chestnut Hill have grown into important stations. His labors were marked by fidelity to duty, and all his exercises were indications of the future successes which were destined to crown his ministry.

Large cities have a wondrous attractive power for all the forces which can augment their greatness. It is not surprising

to find Philadelphia Methodism speedily demanding Alfred Cookman for its service. In the spring of 1849 he was appointed as junior preacher, under the Rev. David Dailey, to Kensington and Port Richmond, with the Rev. John P. Durbin, D.D., as the presiding elder. He was now following closely in the footsteps of his father—this having been the first appointment of that godly man—and the brick church of Kensington, that was so often vocal to the eloquence of the father in his youth, was again vocal with the fervent and persuasive tones of the son. The veneration of the young minister for his father was an absorbing passion, consequently there could be no motive, next to his reverence for the divine Master and the sense of responsibility to Him, so powerful as the consideration that he was standing directly where his father had stood, and was ministering to the very people who had listened to his burning and instructive words. But little record remains to us of the exercises of his mind or of the character and effect of his preaching.

One of the best proofs of his success is that he was returned a second year to the same station, with the privilege of supplying his work for a part of the year and making a visit to Europe. It was about this time that I first saw Alfred Cookman. Although he and I had lived as boys in Baltimore through some of the same years, yet he was so far my senior, and the charges to which we severally belonged were so wide apart, that it happened we had never met. I had heard so much of him that when I learned he was to preach at the Charles Street Church, I hastened thither, and found myself a curious hearer amid the crowd which thronged the building. Many of those present had been his father's friends, they had known him from boyhood, they comprised very many of the most highly cultured Methodists of the city—all facts not little adapted to embarrass the young preacher. His theme was the "Resurrection of Christ." His action is distinctly before me now, as he described Peter and John in their eager race to

reach the tomb of Jesus after they had heard the announcement of Mary that "He had risen from the dead." The preacher was then just past twenty-two years, of very handsome, pleasing personal appearance—slight, erect, with a most engaging countenance, rendered doubly attractive by the massy black hair which fell upon his neck and shoulders.

A letter to his grandfather Cookman immediately preceding the Conference of 1850 gives some insight to his feelings. It breathes the tenderest pathos, and shows how well prepared he was already to fill the highly important office of comforter to the afflicted :

"PHILADELPHIA, March 16, 1850.

"I find by a reference to the newspaper that a steamer will leave New York for Liverpool next Wednesday, and although the near approach of Conference gives me an abundance to do, yet I have managed to economize an hour, which I most joyfully devote to the delightful exercise of English correspondence. Though old ocean's waters serve to separate us, yet frequently thought and affection, hand in hand, defying space and distance, wing their way to your sea-girt isle, and by the eye of fancy I can see you moving from place to place or attending to your daily duties. How much I wish at such times that flesh and blood could travel with the rapidity of thought. Often would you find me lingering near, eager to pay you those attentions which not only old age but your recent heavy afflictions so imperatively require. Believe me, dear grandfather, when I assure you that I think of and deeply sympathize with you, and when I kneel down before Him who can be touched with a feeling of our infirmities, I endeavor as best I can to bear you up upon the wings of faith and prayer. The trials which in the mysterious providence of an all-wise God have come upon you are indeed distressing—aye, almost overwhelming. To bid farewell to those as dear to you as life itself, to gaze upon their countenances for the last time, not knowing that you will ever again meet with them in the flesh, to be left alone with no relative to offer his tender sympathies or kind attentions—all this certainly must have been agonizing in the extreme. At such a period, when the vanity of every thing sublunary must be seen and felt, how comforting and encouraging to remember that in the blessed Saviour we have 'a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother;' One that will never leave nor forsake us, who will stand by us in six trials, and not forsake us in the seventh. I have no doubt but that you have personally experienced the preciousness of



these scriptural assurances. Under the shadow of His wing you have found a covert from the stormy blast, and not only so, but perhaps with holy triumph are able to affirm that 'tribulation worketh patience ; and patience, experience ; and experience, hope : and hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost given unto me.' These light afflictions, which are but for a moment, are intended to work out for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. I would gladly, if possible, pour the balm of Christian consolation into your bruised and bleeding heart. But I rejoice to remember that there is One who regards you with more than a mother's love ; who behind a frowning providence is hiding a smiling face ; who encouragingly whispers all things shall work together for good to those who put their trust in God. May his richest blessing rest abundantly upon you, and although you are descending the hill of life, yet with the everlasting arms beneath and around you, may you realize that your path shineth brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

"In a little more than a week the Philadelphia Conference will assemble in our city. If all should be well, I expect during the session to be admitted to the order of deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church. I have been endeavoring to preach Christ and Him crucified for upward of three years, and realize an increasing love for my work. Now that I am to be received into full connection, I would dedicate myself more unreservedly to God, and in the strength of grace resolve to spend and be spent more fully in the service of my Heavenly Master. Oh ! that with the laying on of hands there may be a special anointing of the Holy Spirit, that I may indeed become a flaming herald of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

"My studies occupy much of my time and attention. Watson's Institutes (with which you are quite familiar) is perhaps the most difficult work we have to digest preparatory to examination. There is such a number of points and multiplicity of theories to treasure up that I find it requires a little extra attention. As a production I regard it as a masterpiece, an enduring monument to the cherished memory of its distinguished author. Our examiners have, by the direction of the bishops, put into our hands a volume entitled the Principles of Morality, by Jonathan Dymond, who, if I mistake not, is an English Quaker. The work, though embodying some excellent truths, contains much that is unquestionably heterodox. The author argues strongly in advocacy of the doctrines peculiar to the Society of Friends, such as quiet worship, absence of all excitement, unpaid ministry, etc., etc. I acknowledge that I have been considerably astonished during its perusal that it should have received the sanction of our Episcopacy, and can only account for it on the ground of inadvertence. I had intended to

give you some account in this letter of the slavery excitement, which has been shaking the temple of our liberties to its very foundations, but will be obliged, from the want of time and space, to defer it until a more convenient season. After the adjournment of Conference I shall be more disengaged, and will embrace an early opportunity to pen with more care another, and, I trust, more interesting letter than this. Mother, brother, and little sister were all well when I saw them a day or two since, and join me, I am sure, in the tenderest love to yourself and all other English friends."

Fortunately the student of Watson's Institutes in this instance had had a training at school which qualified him to grapple with its "number of points and multiplicity of theories." The examinations of the second year all satisfactorily passed, the probationer was admitted to the Conference and elected to deacon's orders. Together with all the members of his class (except one, whose place was supplied by the addition of Henry Hurn), he was ordained deacon by Bishop Waugh. There subsisted between Alfred Cookman and the members of his class a close and loving devotion through his whole career.

To young Methodist ministers the companionship of the four years' course in the Conference has much the same influence on after-life as that of the college or theological seminary has upon those who are students in such institutions. This "course," with its associations and its drill, however imperfect, is a feature of Methodism not understood by many who have wondered at the slowness of the Methodists to adopt theological schools, and their readiness to admit to the pastorate young men of comparatively little learning. Young preachers can be continued indefinitely on trial, till voted to deacon's orders, or they can be discontinued before this, if in the judgment of the Conference they do not give proofs of original capacity and of proficiency in study. So that it is a fair inference that by the time a licentiate is voted to orders he has become a well-informed minister.

As I have already intimated, Mr. Cookman was returned this year to Kensington and Port Richmond. There awaited him

now one of the most delightful episodes of his life. It was determined that he should visit his aged grandfather in England. The veteran himself strongly urged the visit, and it was thought the visit would be not only a gratification to him in his advanced years, but also that at this period of the young minister's life it would be of incalculable advantage to his future career. There is an education, a breadth and definiteness of view, a knowledge of the world, which can be obtained in travel which is possible in no other way. The preparations for the voyage were rapidly hurried forward, and in the month of July Mr. Cookman sailed in the steamer *Europa* from New York for Liverpool. It was with no little trepidation that the good mother risked her dearest treasure once more on the uncertain deep, and that the son launched upon the waste of waters which had engulfed his beloved father; but it was deemed the order of God, and so both took courage, as only thus a filial duty could be discharged. It was hard to leave friends behind, but grandfather, the best friend next to mother since the father's loss, and old England, the "sea-girt isle," were beyond.

To his mother, Mrs. Mary Cookman :

"STEAMER EUROPA, Friday morn, July 19, 1850.

"Thinking that you will feel interested in hearing of my progress, I avail myself of the present opportunity to pen a few lines, expecting to mail my letter this afternoon in Halifax. Concerning my movements up to twelve o'clock on Wednesday, George can give you all possible information. At that hour I bade him farewell, and with my fellow-passengers started on my voyage across the blue Atlantic. As we passed down New York Bay, I was much interested in viewing different objects upon the shore. Here was a magnificent edifice, with its solid and majestic columns, its symmetrical and beautiful proportions; there an angry-looking fort, with its gaping iron mouths, ready to roar at the presumptuous invader of the land of the free and the home of the brave. As we passed Sandy Hook, we parted with our pilot (the last link that seemed to bind us to the shore), and put out fairly to sea. By this time I had formed an acquaintance with one or two of the passengers, and had already enjoyed much pleasant conversation. The wind being pretty fresh, occasioned some roughness of the water, and

this, together with the combined influence of our sails and engine, caused the boat to roll considerably.

"Now, then, for the tug of war. As the ship would rise, I would not suffer the least inconvenience, but when, immediately after, she would make a lurch, there seemed to be a strange nervousness of feeling in the region of digestion. After a while a disagreeable dimness began to steal over my vision. I fought like a lion. At four o'clock the dinner-bell rang, and thinking that perhaps a little food would serve as a barricade on the field of battle, behind which I might ensconce myself from the attack of the foe, I ventured to eat a little. A very few mouthfuls served to suffice, for, finding myself driven from my position, I resolved on retreat. Down I went to my state-room, the enemy following me. First he got me on my back, then he seemed to turn every thing round within me, then he commanded me to restore what I had so insultingly swallowed at dinner-time, and, will you believe me, I felt obliged to yield. Up it came, with a good deal more, and I left the *treasure* at his feet. After so fierce a contest and so signal a defeat, I thought I might lie down. As seven o'clock (supper-time), however, rolled round, I inscribed on my banner, 'Often beaten, but still unconquered,' and staggered up again to the charge. A little toast and tea was all I ventured to take, and yet the enemy, as if maddened by my obstinate resistance, laid upon me a heavier hand than ever, and down I went a second time. What a trouncing I got! I gave him back all—aye, more than all. I shed tears, I groaned, I rolled, and at last, with some difficulty, got to bed—not to sleep, however. During the night, with the motion of the boat, I pitched from side to side, and as morning dawned rose and went forth to walk the deck. During yesterday, although feeling somewhat squeamish, I concluded myself decidedly better, and ventured to partake very moderately of food. Last night I slept gloriously, and this morning began to feel like myself again. I can now just perceive the aforementioned foe in the distance, almost out of sight, but now and then turning round to know whether it would not be well to return. From suffering experience, I think I know something respecting sea-sickness, and feel it in my heart to say that hereafter I will cheerfully relinquish my share to any other for a very trifling consideration.

"Our boat is a splendid one. Her officers are gentlemanly and skillful, her crew is orderly and obedient, the servants are attentive and obliging, and our accommodations are all that could be desired. At half-past eight we breakfast, at half-past twelve enjoy lunch, at four sit down to dinner, and at seven drink our tea. The dinner service is certainly splendid, and the food unexceptionable. We have every variety and any quantity. My state-

room is not quite as far forward as I should like, and yet its situation back is not without advantage, since there is an absence from noise and a retirement which is very desirable and delightful on shipboard ; besides, I have it all to myself, and you know from experience that this is a desideratum. Our passengers, though mostly foreigners, are very kind and gentlemanly. Perhaps there is a little too much liquor drank, and last night I observed some card-playing. With two or three I have formed rather an intimate acquaintance, and find them to be gentlemanly, communicative, and affectionate.

“Our noble steamer has been urging on her course steadily since our departure from New York. Yesterday, notwithstanding rather unfavorable weather, she accomplished about two hundred and fifty miles. After we leave Halifax, and become a little lighter by the consumption of coal, I apprehend her speed will be very considerably increased. Though sailing on the vast ocean, with naught but sky above and sea around, I rejoice to say I realize the presence of my Heavenly Father. Indeed, I think I feel, as I never felt before, my dependence upon Him for life and every thing else. I desire to remain momentarily beneath the shadow of His almighty wing, for there I am sure nothing wrong can befall me. Thus far I have accomplished but little in the way of reading and writing ; indeed, my sea-sickness would not allow of it. I hope, at least, to keep up a short diary, or, as the sailors say, *log*. The weather in this latitude is foggy and cold. Last night I wrapped myself in a blanket, and during the day find my overcoat no encumbrance. I spend much of my time thinking of you ; you are as dear to me as my own life. May God bless and mercifully preserve you all. Pray for me. My sheet is full, and I must close my letter, written with some difficulty, owing to the motion of the boat and the noise of the machinery. Give my best love to brothers, little sister, and all friends.”

## CHAPTER IX.

### THE FOREIGN TOUR.—ENGLISH SCENERY AND FRIENDS.

ON Sunday, July 29th, he arrived at Liverpool. His own descriptions are so full and vivid as to supersede any efforts of mine to describe the delight with which he set foot on English soil. He had been educated all his life to believe every thing was grand and beautiful in England, the home of his ancestors ; he had been taught so to revere his kindred, had been told so many noble things of them, that it was natural he should expect much, and hence should be correspondingly gratified if his ardent expectations were more than fulfilled. Though accustomed to the thought of the genuine worth of his kindred at Hull, the social and material elegance in which they lived, yet reared, as he had been, in the modest surroundings of a Methodist preacher's son, he was hardly prepared for all the refinement which was to greet him. Nothing could be more pleasing than the letters so artlessly detailing his observations and impressions.

To the mother and family at home :

“STEPNEY LODGE, HULL, YORKSHIRE, }  
Monday evening, July 29, 1850. }

“I am in a perfect ecstasy! my joy is unbounded and uncontrollable! my only fear is that I will wake up and find it all a dream. *I am in Hull*; nay, more, I am at my dear grandfather's residence. Would you believe it? I can scarce realize it myself. And now I shall endeavor to conquer emotion a little, and, as calmly as I can, go back and detail my progress since my departure from Halifax, for in that town I mailed a letter for you written upon the ocean after we left New York. I will not advert to the routine of our proceedings on shipboard; if you should feel interested in any thing of that nature, have recourse to my excellent friend and host, viz., Brother J. Baily,

and you can readily obtain the desired information in a letter which I shall mail in the same steamer which will convey this. Suffice it to say that, after a prosperous and most delightful voyage of not quite eleven days, no storm having occurred and the wind having continued favorable nearly all the way, we reached Liverpool on Sunday a little after two o'clock. I immediately proceeded to the *George Hotel*, a magnificent establishment; when, having adjusted matters a little, I sallied forth, sighing most for religious privileges, for Christian communion. As I passed up the street, I providentially met with a gentleman whom I took to be a Wesleyan from his plain and neat costume. Addressing him, I inquired if he could direct me in my search for a Wesleyan chapel? Immediately informing me that he was connected with that excellent body, he kindly proposed to conduct me to the place of my pursuit. Arm-in-arm we passed up the street, enjoying pleasant conversation, and came to Mount Pleasant Chapel, one of the oldest churches in Liverpool. The Sabbath-school was about to close, and, by request, I united with them in prayer, and felt, indeed, access to our Father through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"Yielding to a most urgent and importunate invitation to accompany this brother home to tea, at six I went with him to Stanhope Chapel, when a brother Roebuck preached a most capital sermon. More of this anon. The service charmed me, but about this we will have one of our old-fashioned *tête-à-têtes* upon my return. After the benediction I went to Dr. Raffles's church, and after this to a Mr. Fallows's, a most evangelical and excellent member of the Establishment. Having accomplished as much and endured more than I anticipated in the way of church-going, I returned to my hotel, and about ten retired—not, however, to sleep. The circumstances of the evening as well as the prospects of the morrow drove slumber from my eyes. However, not to linger by the way, morning dawned, and an early hour found me at the custom-house, where the delay and tardiness of the government officers greatly provoked me. Stating my situation, and manifesting much anxiety, I secured my trunks, and drove with all possible speed for the railway-station, and got there just fourteen minutes past nine o'clock, one minute too soon for the Hull train. Off we flew at the rate of thirty miles an hour, through first a manufacturing and afterward an agricultural district, through tunnels—one of them *four* miles long—under and over noble bridges, until at about three o'clock we entered the station-house at Hull.

"I ascertained by inquiry as well as by reference to the directory that Mr. Holmes's residence was quite near. Taking my carpet-bag in my hand, I went round and found a double mansion, elegantly furnished, with hand-

some park and garden, and immediately rung the bell. A servant appeared. I inquired for Mrs. Holmes, ascertained she was in, was asked for my name, I replied a 'stranger;' the maid disappearing, my *own aunt* made her appearance. I observed, 'An unexpected visit from a stranger; look at me, and tell me if you know me.' She looked, and immediately replied, 'Cookman!' I was then introduced into the drawing-room, and cousin after cousin came in—among the rest two of aunt Smith's daughters: all fine, noble-looking girls. Shall I say I spent a pleasant hour with them? It was more, infinitely more; no adjective is strong enough to express the joy I realized. We sat around the tea-table, and conversed about the past and the present, and oh, it was glorious! There are many little facts and circumstances I could detail, but I must forbear. After an early tea I ordered a cab, and, after kissing one of my fair cousins who leaves in the morning for boarding-school in London, I proceeded to Stepney Lodge, where dear grandfather, I am most happy to say, still resides.

"As I approached the mansion my feelings were indescribable—a thousand reminiscences rushed irresistibly upon my mind and heart. I rung the bell, and immediately the housekeeper made her appearance, and told me that grandfather had gone to town to meet the property committee. I then resolved I would fill up the interim with the scrawl which I very much fear you will be unable to read. I am now waiting for him. Stepney Lodge is a lovely spot; I glance out of the window and there is a small park, bounded by a beautiful hedge; to the left is an artificial pond, surrounded on my right by a series of walks through noble trees and luxuriant shrubbery; and behind, a garden abounding with all kinds of fruit. I went out a little while ago and *tasted* gooseberries the size of a walnut, ripe raspberries, the largest strawberries I ever saw without exception, red and black currants, and saw pears, apples, and any quantity of ripe grapes in his summer-house. It is a paradise, glorious, enchanting. The house is old-fashioned and exceedingly comfortable, containing every thing that heart could wish. Over the mantel-piece of the room in which I am writing hangs a likeness of dear father—excellent, decidedly the best I have seen. Before me is the portrait of uncle Alfred, from which the picture we have is taken. \* \* \*

"The Conference commences on Wednesday in *London*. Just think of it; how fortunate! Thus I can attend its sessions, and at the same time visit the lions of this world-renowned city. Thus far Providence has smiled upon me, and every thing has turned out just as my wishes would dictate. Shall I be ungrateful? Rather let me, by a renewal of my spiritual covenant, prove that I am not insensible to the thousand blessings which my Heavenly Father so indulgently lavishes upon unworthy me. Oh, I feel I can not be



thankful enough! My cup runneth over with mingled happiness and gratitude. John Holmes, the oldest son, is a fine fellow—tall, with rather an intelligent face, and certainly very affectionate; but, indeed, I can not talk about my cousins now; my feelings will not permit.

“Grandfather has not yet arrived. After an interview with him I will close this sheet and immediately mail it for Liverpool, in order that it may be in time for the *Pacific’s* mail, which steamer sails on Wednesday. Let me just now say I am *delighted* with England. My expectations were exalted, and they certainly have been more than realized. Grandfather is coming; I see his tall, erect, and commanding figure. He has an umbrella under his arm, and walks both firmly and fast. He enters, but does not know me. Gradually I reveal the fact that his grandson stands before him. He manifests the greatest delight. During the evening, until about half-past ten, we sat together conversing about persons and things; when, taking my candle in my hand, I retired to my room, and received from him a most affectionate good-night. He still dresses in the old English costume—short clothes, white cravat—and is altogether the finest-looking old gentleman that I have seen in England, or that I have ever met with. He is splendid; oh, how happy I am in his society! This morning he goes to perform his duties upon the bench. He has a charming residence. \* \* \* I have entered into particulars, because I know that they will interest you. Much more I have to say, but I must close. I have seen Mr. Henwood, a noble old gentleman, so kind and affectionate. He sends his affectionate regards, as do all the others.”

The following letter from a niece of Mrs. Cookman will be read with interest:

“HULL, August 2, 1850.

“Your son tells me that you are expecting a letter by the mail which leaves this afternoon, and will be very much disappointed if you do not hear from or of him, so he has deputed me to be his secretary. I wish his choice had fallen on a more able person, for I am not much accustomed to or fond of letter-writing; but I doubt not any news of your son will be to you most acceptable, so I will do my best to tell you his present whereabouts and future course. He and my uncle Holmes went this morning to Sheffield, where they will spend a few hours, thence going to Doncaster, will stay all night there. Poor mamma will, I know, be very much dissatisfied that *only one* night is allotted to her, but my cousin has promised to preach in Thornton Street Chapel twice next Sunday, so he is obliged to return to Hull on Saturday afternoon; he leaves here again on Tuesday for London, visiting

Birmingham, Bristol, and Oxford on his way. He will, of course, stay a night in Bristol to see my aunt Hannah and her family. From London he is going to Paris, Brussels, and Antwerp, returning about next Saturday fortnight to Hull, where he will preach on the following day in Waltham Street and George Street Chapels. I do not think he has yet made up his mind whether or not to visit Scotland. I wish you could see our family party gathered around the table, endeavoring to fix his tour, with maps and railway guides before us; you would be quite amused to hear first one proposing one plan, then a second another; one says he ought to see this town; another, that is the best route; while my cousin Alfred sits quietly looking on, and listens to all in turn.

"Now I have told you what I know about my cousin's proceedings, I must tell you how delighted we all are to have him among us; our only regret is that our eyes behold *one* and not *all* our cousins, with their dear mother, but we are at present satisfied with what we have, and hope at a future day to see some, if not all, of your family in England. As we can not know them personally, we have endeavored to do so by report. Alfred yesterday morning brought their portraits from Mr. Cookman's, so we all tried to judge their characters by their faces, and made Alfred tell us their several characteristics, till I could almost fancy I know my hitherto stranger cousins. As for John Holmes, he has taken such a fancy to little Mary, that he proposes sending me his own sister Annie and exchanging me for his cousin; but that I suppose you will hardly agree to. I asked Alfred yesterday if he had any message to send to you, and his answer was, 'Tell my mother that my cup of happiness is overflowing;' indeed, he receives so many attentions, and is so much thought of by his father's friends, that it will be a wonder if he is not quite spoiled before he returns to Philadelphia. Mr. Cookman and he dined with us last Wednesday; the old gentleman seems quite pleased with and proud of his grandson. He went with us in the evening to hear him preach in Thornton Street Chapel, and appeared quite delighted with his sermon. And now, my dear aunt, I must draw my letter to a close; in order to make it *valuable*, my aunt has half promised to cross it, so on her return from the town, if she has time before the post leaves, I shall request her to do so.

"My aunt Holmes has just come in from the town, but says it is impossible for her to find time to write even a few lines this afternoon, but I am to tell you that she is quite charmed with her nephew."

It seems, then, that grandfather, aunts, and cousins were all "charmed" with the American cousin. Such a picture of him

and his surroundings from the pen of a maiden cousin must have been very grateful to the mother's feelings. His visit was not only busy with sight-seeing and social joys, but also with engagements to preach. In the very chapels where his father, when but a year or two older than he, first thrilled the hearts of his neighbors, the son now preached to the delight of grandfather and all. To the noble parent it must have been as though his own son were alive from the dead.

To his mother :

“STEPNEY LODGE, HULL, August 5, 1850.

“I should have written to you the latter part of last week but for the multiplicity and urgency of my engagements. The Hull people have made quite a lion of me, and hence I am expected to exhibit myself on all convenient occasions, and occasionally interest them by my American roaring. My cousin Ella Smith, however, very kindly consented to do what only the circumstances of the case prevented me from doing, and that was to transmit a letter by last Saturday's steamer. I have now seen pretty much all my relatives in this part of England, and I speak sincerely when I say that they not only answer but far exceed my most sanguine expectations. On Friday last I visited Doncaster, my mother's native town, taking Sheffield on my route. Arriving at the station, I found aunt Smith, uncle John, and his lady, in waiting for me. After a most cordial greeting we proceeded to Arthur Smith's, at Sunny Bar, where I partook of some refreshments, and then sallied forth with uncle John to see the place. We visited the old church where you worshiped in childhood, saw the house in which you were born, the residence of grandma from which you went when you were married, aunt Elenor's former home, called upon her brother, Dr. Murray, and had some conversation with him, continued our walk as far as the celebrated Doncaster race-course, looked at the deaf and dumb institution in the immediate vicinity, and about six o'clock returned to Sunny Bar. Forgetting the copse of trees, or rather the name of the place which aunt mentioned, I plucked a few sprigs of grass from a plot in front of the old home, and also secured a few leaves from some shrubbery immediately before the house in which you were living at the time of your marriage.

“In the evening we had a family party at aunt Smith's. All the sons except Theophilus were present, and until two o'clock the following morning we remained together enjoying familiar conversation. They are a noble set, treated me like a prince, and would only part with me on Saturday morn-

ing with the promise that I would endeavor to visit them again. I was particularly pleased with uncle John: he is affable, gentlemanly, very intelligent, consistently pious, and exceedingly affectionate. \* \* \* I shall have much to tell you about Doncaster upon my return, a town I have been better pleased with than any I have seen in England yet; indeed, the road in the direction of the race-course, with its noble trees and splendid residences, is almost unsurpassed by any thing I have ever seen.

"On Saturday I returned to Hull, and yesterday preached in Great Thornton Street to overflowing houses. In the evening I think there were at least 3000 people in the chapel, and multitudes went away who could not even obtain a foothold. They had me the day before placarded upon the public corners and in the shop-windows, 'Rev. Alfred Cookman, of Philadelphia, Sir,' etc., will preach at such a time. \* \* \* In the morning they wept all over the house. Some shouted. I was blessed, and indeed we had a gracious waiting together. I am sure I never preached better than at night; much feeling was evinced, and I trust that the great day will reveal the result of my yesterday's labors. As I pass through the streets, they point at me and say, 'There he goes; that is Mr. Cookman's American grandson.' Aunt Holmes, who you know is exceedingly prudent, said to me that I ought to come to England, for at the present juncture they needed some like me. You can have no idea of the respect which is paid and the affection which is manifested toward me. Grandfather heard me twice yesterday, and appeared highly delighted. The old gentleman is in good spirits. His friends think that my visit at this time is a Godsend, for it has had a most reviving influence upon him, who previously seemed quite depressed. He is a noble man. Every hour serves to increase my love and respect. This morning I visited the tomb of my grandma Cookman and uncle Alfred, under the Waltham Street Chapel. By-the-way, they (the authorities) wish me to re-open the chapel for them next Sabbath week. Do not know but I shall comply."

He was next to enjoy what, to every Anglo-American and to every American Methodist, is one of the richest treats which can possibly be afforded—the sight of London, and the sight of the British Wesleyan Conference. To a young man whose reading has been chiefly in the English classics, in the history and poetry of Britain, until the names of her authors and of the places of their resort, have become household words, it is a source of inexpressible pleasure to look upon their very haunts—the

streets where they walked, the inns they frequented, the favorite nooks where they loved to linger. And to one imbued with the spirit and traditions of John Wesley, nothing could be more inspiring than to touch the institutions, to see and hear the men to whom he had transmitted his wisdom and power. All this was the more enjoyable to Alfred Cookman because the teachings of his father and the presence of his father's friends imparted a realness to every thing about him. These conditions, added to his own enthusiastic nature, transferred him into the very heart of all he saw and heard.

To his mother :

“LONDON, August 16, 1850.

“I leave this populous city in a few minutes for Hull, and yet I can not consent to quit its precincts without penning you a short note, especially as this will be the last opportunity of writing by to-morrow's steamer. I have now been spending one entire week in London, the heart of the world. I have seen and heard much which it will be vain for me to attempt to detail at this time and under present circumstances. Grandfather met me here last Monday evening, and we have been spending our time together very pleasantly. I have been honored with a seat on the platform of the British Conference, have been treated with the utmost respect and affection by the different preachers, have heard many of them in debate, and last Sabbath enjoyed the gratification of listening to Dr. Bunting in the morning and Dr. Dixon in the evening. Yesterday I saw the royal procession for the purpose of proroguing Parliament—Her Majesty Queen Victoria, His Highness Prince Albert, dukes, duchesses, etc., etc. All the public institutions, such as the British Museum, Bank of England, Tower of London, etc., I have visited. Oh, it will take me a week to tell you about my sojourn in this city of cities! On my way here I spent about a day and a half with aunt Townsend in Bristol. \* \* \* She studied my happiness, and did all in her power to render my visit pleasant.

“Next Sabbath I preach at Kingston Chapel, Hull, in the morning, address the Sabbath-school in the afternoon, and preach for grandfather at his church, viz., the Tabernacle, in the evening. You will say, ‘Too bad—too bad! gone for rest, and yet performing usual labor.’ Well, I will be careful, and spare myself as much as possible. You have no idea what a sensation I have produced in my father's native town.

"I shall not get to France. Grandfather seems anxious that I should be with him, and, as I have only a short time longer in England, I suppose I must forego the trip and gratify him. Perhaps at some future day I shall enjoy the opportunity. I should like to write more, but have not the time. We must now start for the cars. God bless you. I think of you all, morning, noon, and night. Oh, how much I have to tell you all! If you were with me, my pleasure would be complete."

To his mother :

"STEPNEY LODGE, August 19, 1850.

\* \* \* "On Friday morning last, in company with my grandfather, I left great London, and set out for Hull. Early in the evening we reached our place of destination, and as we passed through the streets found that handbills had been printed and posted up, announcing that I would preach on the Sabbath. This is something so new to me, so different from our plan across the water, that I acknowledge it does not strike me favorably. At Stepney we found Cartwright, the housekeeper, quite well, and all things pretty much the same as when we left. On Saturday I of course began to think about my Sabbath duties and exercises. After determining on my subjects, I went down to uncle Holmes's, and spent an hour or two most delightfully with John, Annie, and aunt Smith, who is keeping house for them during the absence of her sister. I took with me your very beautiful and affectionate letter, and ventured to read the greater part of it to them, as I did also to grandfather. The reference to little John's success was most touching, and served to draw tears from many eyes. Let me most sincerely congratulate him on his triumphant admission into the high-school, and at the same time express the hope that his future course will be marked by as much devotion to study, as much honorable and rapid advancement, as has his past career in connection with Zane Street. The allusion in your letter was the more interesting from the fact that we sometimes tease Annie Holmes about John Emory. She is a pretty, amiable, affectionate girl of thirteen, quite large for her age, and I am sure that a sight of her would be attended with danger to any of my susceptible brothers. From the daguerreotype she seems to have taken quite a fancy to John; hence the tormenting she suffers.

"Well, to continue my narrative, Saturday passed away, Sunday came. Arm-in-arm my grandfather and I proceeded to Kingston Chapel, a most commodious, elegant, and comfortable place, capable of accommodating between three and four thousand people. We found it crowded, and I proceeded in my old style (for any other suits me as well as Saul's armor did David) to represent the Christian warrior, his enemies, duties, and triumphs. God

owned and blessed the word, and notes of joy were heard in our camp. In the afternoon I addressed the Sabbath-school in the same church, and certainly I witnessed one of the most beautiful and gratifying spectacles that I could possibly have looked upon. The immense gallery, fifteen or sixteen pews deep, was filled all around with well-behaved children; the lower floor was crowded even in the aisles with their parents, as well as the friends of the institution. Oh, it was a glorious, a memorable occasion! I did myself full justice, and the people seemed more than gratified. In the evening I preached in the Tabernacle. \* \* \* I have in my short life seen dense crowds, but I am sure that I never saw any thing to equal the congregation last night. It was one unwieldy mass of human beings, almost piled one on top of another, and hundreds, I am told, went away who could not obtain even a foothold.

"I chose as my subject the Great Supper, and preached, I hope, in demonstration of the spirit and with power. I felt that my arm was strong, and that by the help of God a blow must be struck. At the close of the service a number came forward to the altar as penitents, and I left with the soldiers of Christ in possession of the field. Will you believe me if I tell you that I could scarce walk home. I had let out every link of my chain, and I had hardly strength left to stand. However, here I am this morning, a little mondayish, it is true, but by nightfall I expect to be as bright and vigorous as ever. Grandfather seems quite delighted with my efforts, but tells me I will kill myself, and that I must not be so lavish of my strength and voice.

"As I intimated in my letter written in London, I fear I will not get to Paris this time. Grandfather seems anxious to have me with him during the remainder of my stay in England, and I suppose that, in view of his advanced age, he must be gratified in this. Perhaps in a very few years another opportunity will offer, and then I can travel somewhat upon the Continent. I have been making some inquiries about the Southampton steamers, and I think that there is no one to start about the time I want to go home. I have seen England, talked with my grandfather and other relatives, and now I begin to feel as if it were my duty to get back to my field of labor again. I know exactly how they are situated, and am sure that the interests of both appointments would be subserved by my return. Early in September, then, I expect to turn my face homeward. So look out for me about the 20th or 25th. At every step in Hull I meet with the former friends and acquaintances of my beloved parents. Some of them weep when they see me, others manifest great pleasure, and refer with enthusiasm to their former acquaintance with my father and mother. One

attended the same school with them, another went a-fishing, and a third was a bosom friend. Dr. McClintock and myself stayed at the same place in London, went to see the lions together, and enjoyed much pleasant intercourse.

"I preach to-night (Tuesday) at Kingston; next Sabbath at Waltham and Thornton Streets."

To his mother :

"STEPNEY LODGE, HULL, August 23, 1850.

"Thus far, I believe, every steamer which has left England for America since my arrival here has borne a letter to those at home. To-morrow is the regular day for the departure of one of the Cunard line, and although I have written once this week, yet I can not consent to let this opportunity pass without dispatching you at least a few lines. My health since I have been in England has continued quite good, and my enjoyment has exceeded my most sanguine expectations. The comforts by which I have been surrounded, the exceedingly affectionate attentions of different friends, as well as the continual feast of vision with which I have been providentially favored, all have conspired to render the last six weeks the happiest period of my life. The country presents the appearance of an extensive garden, separated for convenience sake into small fields by beautiful green hedges. Indeed, I know of no feature in the natural scenery of England which will sooner strike the traveler's eye than the neat and well-trimmed hedges which are every where to be seen. The foliage of the trees, too, as well as the verdure of the fields, is much richer and more elegant than any thing we see in America. This is owing to the humidity of the atmosphere, as well as to the absence of that intense heat which so often with us exerts a blighting influence on all natural objects. Some of the landscapes here are surpassingly beautiful; perhaps there is not that wildness in the scenery that we have with us, but there is a cultivation and variety, together with a picturesque appearance and classic interest, which never fails to please the eye and captivate the heart.

"In the distance, for instance, upon the summit of a noble hill, you discover, surrounded by towering trees, some old castle which has stood for centuries, and which, crumbling under the influence of time, occupied only by the owl and the bat, remains as a monument of former times. Not far off you perceive a comfortable-looking farm-house; a noble lawn in front, and a highly cultivated garden in the rear. Around you see the different fields. In one, perhaps, the cattle are quietly grazing; in another laborers are diligently engaged in securing the golden harvest; while in a



third the little lambs skip in every direction, as if almost intoxicated with joy. Away in the horizon is a flourishing town (England abounds in towns), which always has its church built in the Gothic style, and whose glittering spire, like a golden finger, points toward heaven, as if it would direct the minds of the people thitherward. While gazing upon the scene, diversified with fields and forests, noblemen's mansions and laborers' cottages, gray and gloomy castles, as well as chaste and cheerful village churches, you are suddenly startled by the whiz of a locomotive, which, with its train, like a rushing comet, in the twinkling of an eye disappears in a damp and gloomy tunnel; then emerging passes over the massy stone bridge of a quiet stream, and, after darting about among the hills for a moment, is lost to view. I did not know when I attempted this description that I should have covered so large a portion of my sheet, and yet I am sure that, if I had done the picture justice, it would require more space and time than I at the present could conveniently or possibly employ. Any thing further of the same nature I will have to postpone until my return to your delightful society. -

"On Tuesday evening, according to appointment, I preached in Kingston Chapel to at least three thousand people. God was pleased to own and bless His Word, delivered in an humble dependence upon the energizing influences of the Holy Spirit, for at the close of the services, during a prayer-meeting which was held, about forty individuals presented themselves at the altar, desiring an interest in the prayers of God's people. Wednesday night I blew my trumpet in old George Yard, where Wesley, Benson, and my beloved father have been heard, with pleasure and profit. Again our altar was more than crowded with those inquiring their way to Zion. Last night I preached in the Tabernacle to a congregation literally wedged together. The crowd I think was even greater than on last Sunday evening. I never saw a more attentive, solemn, and feeling auditory. We had seekers all around our altar as well as in the vestry. Not unto me, O Lord, but unto Thy name be all the glory. Who knows but that a kind Providence, who thus far has most delightfully opened my way before me, has determined to honor my visit by giving me souls for my hire and seals to my ministry. If there should be only one who, in the great day of final retribution, shall ascribe to my instrumentality his or her salvation, I shall be more than compensated for the time spent or the money expended in my visit to the United Kingdom.

"On Sabbath I am to be at Waltham Street in the morning, and at Thornton Street at night. Oh that the God of my father would be present to wound and to heal! I fear I shall not see aunt Holmes before my return. She continues at Swanage, and uncle doubts whether they will get

back before my departure. I have had many very, very pleasant interviews with aunt Smith. Yesterday she took me to see Mr. and Mrs. Morley, who now reside in Hull. They referred to you in the most affectionate manner."

From Mrs. Smith, of Hull, to Mrs. Mary Cookman :

"HULL, August 28, 1850.

"MY DEAREST MARY,—Many of my correspondents complain, and not without just cause, that I have degenerated in regular correspondence. \* \* \* And now, my beloved Mary, I congratulate you on being blessed with such a son. If he is a specimen of the other members of your family, those relatives who live to welcome them as they may come to visit England have a rich treat in store. I say I expected to see a nice, intelligent young man, but I had not raised my expectations to the reality. Not one of your family rejoices more that he has come over than myself. I have such a delightful picture in my mind of the union betwixt the families on this side and beyond the Atlantic as I can not describe ; there was a break in the chain, but now we seem firmly linked together. I feel we are all one, and bound together by indissoluble ties. Oh ! we are sorry to let him leave us, and we are not alone. How many in Hull will have to praise God for his visit ! They have said, 'Can't you use influence for him to remain in Hull another month?' with much more. I could only silence them by assuring them it was impossible ; we had received that morning a schedule of his berth, which was taken in the steamer *Asia*. He leaves behind him a name, but, what is of far more worth, many, many seals to his ministry. Any one but himself would be in danger from popularity ; when any thing is said in his praise to his grandfather, he replies, 'Oh, he owes much to his mother ; I always had a very high opinion of her judgment, attention, and piety.' It gladdens my heart to hear him.

"I walked with Alfred one morning to introduce him to old Mr. Morley, who desired he would pray with him ere he left the manse. I stayed a little time after his departure to his grandfather. Mr. Morley was obliged to leave the room, and go into another to give vent to a flood of tears ere he could converse with me, and on his return every other subject was banished except you and yours, and the pleasure he had in your society when he lived in Fishergate. My dear sister Holmes mourns her absence from home at this time. I reap the benefit, for I might have been in another part of the country in ignorance of my loss. I do, indeed, praise God for my present privileges ; and I feel no doubt but that Mrs. H. is in her providential path, for, to use her own words, 'However dear Alfred is, Thomas is dearer, and has the first claim on my consideration.'

“As I have sat under Alfred’s ministry, I have recalled the instrument in God’s hand of leading me to Himself, and then was filled with praise that an insignificant being like myself should be the first link in the glorious chain; and when I saw the altar rails crowded with penitents, my heart leaped with joy, my heart burned within me, and I thought what glorious results might arise from one of the least being savingly converted to God.”

This letter very appropriately closes the correspondence touching the visit to England. His letters, written with so much frankness, the outpourings of a faithful son’s heart to his devoted mother, give ample incidental proof of the wide-spread, popular, and useful influence of his pulpit exercises. The testimonies of his cousin and aunt abundantly confirm this incidental revelation. The aunt acknowledges any one but himself would have been in danger from such popularity. Such unbounded enthusiasm over so young a man was well calculated to turn his head; but it does not seem to have affected him beyond exciting a devout recognition of God’s goodness, and pleasure at the gratification he thought it would afford his loving mother. Then as always there was, to all appearances at least, a sweet absence of egotism, a simple unconsciousness of the incense of praise which was ever rising in his presence. His absorbing purpose was to win souls to Christ. For his success in “slaying sinners,” in receiving the gratitude and applause of the people, he ascribed all the glory to God.

Three features crop out in these letters. The character of his preaching, already substantially formed, and which he calls “his own”—pictorial or dramatic representation—is seen in the account of some of his sermons; the tireless zeal for work, unable to rest without work, and uniting with his recreations ceaseless preaching; and also we hear of him for the first time before an audience of children, a direction in his ministry in which he was afterward to acquire such remarkable facility and success.

## CHAPTER X.

HOME AGAIN.—MARRIAGE.—MINISTRY AT WEST CHESTER AND HARRISBURG, PA.

THE early autumn found him at his post in Kensington, preaching to large congregations, and attending to all pastoral work with fresh delight and diligence. Of course the little family group on Race Street was frequently visited. He had come back filled with beautiful thoughts and recollections, which it was his joy to communicate to those who were as dear to him as his own life. Much, however, as he enjoyed the pastimes of home, he did not neglect the duties of his charge—his hours were full of useful occupation. Thus busily employed, the autumn and winter glided away, and the session of the Conference approached.

A few extracts from his correspondence while stationed at Kensington are sufficient to show the zealous spirit with which he was animated :

“ January 14, 1850.

“ On Sabbath I preached both morning and evening to excellent congregations. God was eminently with me on both occasions. At night I was uncommonly assisted : an unusual seriousness pervaded the assembly, some came forward to the altar, and I trust that eternity will alone reveal the extensive good done. Last evening I preached with much liberty ; more knelt at our altar than on the previous night, numbers in the congregation wept freely, and we are encouraged to look for better times. I do most earnestly desire to be a successful minister of the New Testament. While I experience an unceasing love for my honorable and responsible work, at the same time I would perceive a corresponding influence attending my labors. Oh, that God would constitute me a chosen instrument of good to those among whom I may toil from time to time !”

“January 6, 1851.

“Last Sabbath, the first Sunday of the new year, I preached in Kensington morning and evening on the subject of the Judgment. I have rarely addressed more attentive and solemn congregations. God was eminently with me on both occasions. At the conclusion of the evening service we entered heartily into a prayer-meeting. In exhortation I felt as if I was only the speaking-trumpet of Jehovah. Almost immediately twelve approached our altar, all very interesting cases; a number professed to experience peace, and before ten P. M. we had the shout of the King in our camp. To God be all the glory.”

“February, 1851.

“In Philadelphia a good feeling seems to prevail at almost every appointment. Trinity, the church where our family worship, has been catching some of the descending drops. Little sister professes to have experienced peace, and has joined the Church; she seems to be as firm as an ocean rock. There are only two now of our family who remain without the pale of the Church, viz., George and Will, and we are praying and confidently hoping that very soon they will become the subjects of saving grace. On Sunday I preached three times, twice to immense congregations in Kensington, and in the afternoon at Fifth Street to a very full house. This evening we renew the battle, and expect that our efforts will be more signally blessed in the salvation of priceless souls. My heart is in the work. I glory in being permitted to head the sacramental host in the assaults upon the strongholds of the wicked one.”

“February, 1851.

“Certainly there is no enjoyment at all comparable with that experienced by those who possess a divine testimony that they have been introduced into the family of Heaven, and as the object of their Father's approbation and love. Oh! let us be ambitious to possess all the mind which was in Christ Jesus our Lord, for every day only serves more to satisfy me that decided and devout spirituality and supreme religious enjoyment are twin sisters. God has joined them together, and it is impossible for man to tear them asunder.”

On the 6th of March, 1851, Mr. Cookman was united in marriage to Miss Annie E., daughter of Mr. Abraham Bruner, of Columbia, Pa., by the Rev. William Urie, of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Previously to the marriage he wrote to Miss Bruner:

"From the commencement of my religious course I have felt anxious to commit my all into God's gracious care and keeping, that I might be guided and cared for by His infinite wisdom. In the matter of marriage, above all others, I have been desirous that He should rule and overrule; indeed, I have incorporated this in all my private addresses to a Throne of Grace. In looking back upon the past I think I am prepared to say, 'He hath done all things well,' and in all my associations with you can most distinctly perceive the hand of an overruling Providence. I desire to be unfeignedly grateful to my Heavenly Father for this and any other manifestation of His tender care and watchful love, and in the strength of grace would solemnly promise Him to be more devoted to His glorious cause in all future time."

As evidence of the happiness which crowned this union, and also of the pleasant and delicate way in which he ever manifested his affection for his wife, I anticipate by some years the following effusion, written at the close of his pastoral term at Union Church, Philadelphia, 1861 :

"This day completes the first decade of my married life. On the 6th of March, 1851, I linked my fortunes with those of my dearly beloved wife, and now on the tenth anniversary of our *blessed union* I would record my gratitude to Almighty God, whose kind providence gave and hath preserved to me one so well deserving the name of 'help-meet.'

"Our life, made up of fidelity and love, has been like a deepening and widening stream, upon which we have floated together in delightful harmony. Our home, with its five little buds of beauty and promise, has been an *Eden spot*, where our Infinite Father, who dwelt with the first pair in Paradise, has vouchsafed us His constant presence. Oh, how much of pure love and true joy have been compressed within these ten years—the happiest ten years of my life ! Accept, my precious Annie, this humble but sincere testimony to your thoughtful care, constant kindness, unsullied goodness, untiring fidelity, and uninterrupted, aye, increasing devotion.

"We have lived and loved together thus long—and now on this anniversary day let us, in token of our gratitude to God and our affection for one another, build a pillar of witness. It shall be composed of these ten stones, one for each year of our married life : LOVE—TRUTH—PURITY—KINDNESS—FIDELITY—SINCERITY—CONSTANCY—THANKFULNESS—HOLINESS—CHRIST THE FOUNDATION STONE.

"This is the altar upon which we will renew our vows 'to love, comfort, honor, and keep one another so long as we both shall live.'"

Within a few weeks after the marriage Mr. Cookman was appointed to the charge of West Chester station. West Chester is the county town of Chester County, about thirty miles from Philadelphia, and beautifully situated in a rich farming district, which was settled originally almost wholly by Quakers. The town has long been noted for the thrift, intelligence, and sobriety of its inhabitants. The Methodist Church there was not strong either in wealth or numbers, but the members, feeling themselves highly favored by Mr. Cookman's appointment, resolved to do the best they could to render him and his bride comfortable and happy. On the evening of their arrival they were welcomed to their new home—the house having been put in order, and tea being spread for their entertainment. The young minister and his youthful wife were at once put at their ease—a cozy, genial feeling suffused their hearts; they began the first evening to love their new people, and continued to love them to the end. A little kindness shown to a pastor upon his first appearance in a new charge goes far to render all the days spent in the charge pleasant and useful; while the neglect of it, though it may be from thoughtlessness, causes a chill which it takes many days of kindness to overcome.

Mr. Cookman, accustomed hitherto to look up to a head for direction and support, was now thrown wholly on his own resources. He knew where was the source of power—the Throne of Grace—and resorting to it, he obtained help of God. His preaching from the opening Sunday attracted general attention. His fame had preceded him, and very soon his church was crowded, not only by the Methodists and their immediate sympathizers, but also by the *élite* of the neighborhood. The "Friends" were charmed by the spirituality of his sermons and the godly simplicity of his manners. He became the central figure of the religious community, and all eyes and hearts were turned toward him; his influence grew day by day, and his ascendancy over the minds of the people

became in a short time such as no other minister had attained in years.

With a laudable ambition for success, and an earnest zeal for the divine glory, he was a man full of work, spending the forenoons of the day in the study and the afternoons in pastoral visitation, and mingling socially with all classes of the people and with all denominations of Christians. The sociability and catholicity which so distinguished his father, and which subsequently became so pre-eminent in him, began already to be seen as traits of character. Effective and popular as he was in the pulpit, he did not depend wholly upon the efforts of the Sabbath to accomplish the work of God, but was incessant in his attentions to the members of the congregation in the private walks of life. There was no element of power which he did not seek thus early to subordinate to the efficiency of his ministry. But while absorbingly devoted to his own charge and to the work which lay directly before him, it was not possible for one of such gifts, whose family name was talismanic in all the churches, and whose personal reputation was already wide-spread, to escape constant appeals from far and near for special services in the way of sermons and addresses.

The following letters to his young friend, Andrew Longacre, give a faint idea of the intensity and extensiveness of his labors. As will be seen, his summer vacation in 1851 was spent in attendance upon various camp-meetings. He went rapidly from one to another of these gatherings, and preached to the delight and edification of the masses who frequented them. A strange way to take vacation ! And yet the habit adopted thus early in his career continued uniformly through life ; his month for relaxation, instead of being spent in the recreations of innocent pastimes or sports, in absolute desistance from his customary home work and excitements, was usually absorbed in the most active and taxing exercises. The change of scene, the bodily movement, the forming of new acquaintances, the free,



joyous mingling with his ministerial brethren, the ever-fresh inspirations which such associations evoked, but, above all, the opportunity of working for the Master on a wide-spread scale—these were considerations which controlled and sustained his choice.

To Mr. Andrew Longacre, of Philadelphia :

“WEST CHESTER, September 5, 1851.

\*\*\* “Believe me that my silence has not been occasioned by any diminution of kindly or affectionate feeling, but purely by the force of circumstances. As you are aware, I have been away from my charge for the last few weeks, and during most of my absence have been so circumstanced as to render letter-writing a matter of absolute impossibility. In the providence of God, I have been permitted to return to my field of labor, and very gladly avail myself of a little leisure to communicate with one for whom I have long entertained the sincerest regard. Your prosperity has always greatly interested me. Believing that God had endued you with very considerable talent, satisfied that you possessed in no small degree the grace of the Holy Spirit, I thought that in a more public sphere you might better promote the glory of God and subserve the interests of His Church ; hence my strong desire and earnest entreaty that you should prayerfully consider the important work of the Christian ministry. The subsequent developments of divine Providence have, I think, most clearly proved that the impression which induced me to single you out for this sphere was directed from heaven. Perhaps you may be disposed to think that I am writing too plainly when I make allusion to your gifts and graces. Believe me, I am perfectly sincere, and express myself in this undisguised way from a firm conviction that many young men suffer more from depression than elation of spirits. From a fear of adding fuel to the flame of vanity, encouragement is often withheld, while the individual is writhing under the influence of despondency and despair. I believe in my soul this is wrong, and, as a general thing, I make it a rule to repeat to the person referred to any thing commendatory which I may have heard. This is a privilege which becomes a feast for my own soul, while at the same time it is intended to stimulate and encourage the one addressed.

“Most sincerely do I rejoice in your success, and as earnestly do I pray that God may bless you with that measure of health and strength which shall fully fit you for the earnest and successful prosecution of your ministerial labors. During the summer I attended five camp-meetings, preaching frequently and laboring arduously. I greatly regretted my inability to reach

Red Lion, which ground I have not visited for two years. My valise was packed and arrangements made to start, but at the last moment I concluded that I would yield to the solicitations of Peninsula friends, who positively insisted upon my tarrying longer in that region. God seemed to own and bless my feeble endeavors, so that I would fain believe my course was over-ruled for good. I trust that the meeting at Red Lion, like many which have preceded it in that forest, proved both pleasant and profitable. I enjoyed for a day or two its counterpart on the Shrewsbury Circuit, where there were upward of three hundred tents and any number of Baltimoreans. At present I am enjoying my happy and comfortable home—a very little paradise. When will you come and participate in its pleasures? I can promise you a cordial welcome and hospitable treatment. Next week I desire, if possible, to spend a day or two with mother, whom I have not seen for many weeks. Perhaps you may be in the city then, and I may enjoy a personal interview, which, after all, is infinitely preferable to pen-and-ink communication.”

To the Rev. Andrew Longacre :

“WEST CHESTER, January 10, 1852.

\*\*\* “On Thursday evening we crossed our own threshold and sat down again at home. Your letter was of course carefully read, and its urgent request duly considered. Will you believe me when I say that nothing at the present would afford me more pleasure than to spend a week with old and cherished friends on Chestnut Hill. Indeed, I would, if it were at all possible, strain a point and neglect something else that I might serve you. I appreciate your situation, and would feel it a privilege to go to your help, but I am under obligations to go to Wilmington next week, and as I have been absent from my people for some time, and expect to leave them again shortly, I fear that it will be out of my power to render you this desired service. Indeed, I have almost concluded to commence a series of meetings here about week after next, so that my way seems to be entirely blocked up.

“I would not have you think that I esteem Chestnut Hill so insignificant a spot as not to merit my notice or efforts, for I speak truthfully when I say that, as it towers above the neighboring hills, and indeed deserves the title ‘Prince of Hills,’ so among the many places I have been privileged to visit, I know of few, if any, which stand as high in my affections. May God signally own and bless your proposed effort, and grant that, in a moral as well as in a natural point of view, it may become one of the most desirable and delightful spots on God’s great footstool. You have my sympathies, prayers, and should have my feeble efforts if I had not previously engaged to help Dr. Hodgson early in the new year.”

It appears from this letter that his friend, to whom in the former letter he had written such encouraging words, had himself begun preaching, and was making his first efforts at circuit work. To the request for help, Mr. Cookman found it difficult to say no, and nothing but previous engagements prevented his yielding. The disposition to oblige every body, to answer to every call for assistance, was strong in his nature; and while it may have interrupted his habits of self-culture and systematic study, it yet extended his influence by constantly enlarging his acquaintance among the churches. Among the excursions from home was one on a literary errand—probably the first of its kind—to Dickinson Seminary, located at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The following letter to his wife discloses a little of the anxiety of the young orator, but more of the joy of the young father:

“WILLIAMSPORT, Monday noon.

“I have a leisure moment which shall be devoted to a family correspondence. After bidding you farewell I returned to my lonely home, and proceeded to change and finish my address. This accomplished, I arranged my matters, and, joining Professor Wentworth, returned to the dépôt. We dined with your friend H—, and started about one o’clock. A long, tedious ride in the canal-boat brought us to Williamsport about half-past twelve on Saturday. General Packer met me at the boat, and is entertaining Brother Myers and myself most elegantly. Our home is the head-quarters in the town. Yesterday we had three services, Professor Wentworth preaching in the morning and your humble servant in the evening. All went off satisfactorily. The officers of the institution and the people of the town are more than kind, offering me every attention. I deliver my address this evening. Can not tell how it will take. The examinations are progressing, and will not be concluded before Wednesday. I find that I will not be able to get home before Friday. How is my precious Bruner? Dear little duck, I have him and his mother in my mind almost constantly. Kiss him over and over and over again for his absent papa.”

With all these engagements, the duties of his pastorate were not neglected. The protracted meeting at which he hints was soon begun, and resulted in a general and thorough revival of religion, the fruits of which remain to this day.

At the ensuing session of the Conference—spring of 1852—he was elected to elders' orders and ordained by Bishop Janes, and re-appointed to West Chester. His work this year was but a continuation of that of the preceding. The revival did not spend itself, but progressed through all the months, marked more by the universal quickening and growth of believers than by the multiplication of converts. The probationers were instructed and thoroughly drilled in the methods of a godly life. And yet a large number of persons professed conversion during the last months of his ministry. In the families of Judges L—— and D——, and many others, he was eminently useful, and his name is revered as a household word. Miss Annie Lewis, afterward the wife of the Rev. Dr. Erastus Wentworth, whose beautiful life closed so early in China, was one of those whose character he greatly assisted to fashion. But I will allow the Rev. W. C. Best, of West Chester, to testify of the permanent good accomplished during these years :

“Mr. Cookman and his wife were received with open arms and warm hearts, for his reputation as a man of humble piety and a minister of uncommon ability had preceded him. He at once took a position in the community, and fully retained it until his removal, such as none of his predecessors had enjoyed. He found a church embarrassed with a debt of three thousand dollars of ten years' standing, very much in need of repairs, and with a small number of members, and they by no means wealthy. During his term of service he not only put the church in thorough repair, but paid off the entire debt. He found here but one hundred and fifty-two members. At the end of his first year he returned one hundred and seventy members, and seventy-five probationers. At the end of his second year he reported two hundred and twenty-five full members, and twenty-six probationers. The church was always full when Brother Cookman was to preach. He had larger regular congregations than any of our ministers have preached to here, either before

or since, with perhaps a single exception, and that was during the war.

“He was as popular in other churches as in his own. Every body loved him, and spoke of him as the lovely, eloquent Cookman. His popularity in the town may be judged of from the number of marriages he was called upon to perform. Though the town was small, and the society weak, he married almost as many in the two years as were married in the past five years, though the town and society have largely increased in numbers. Of those converted under his ministry there was much of stable material. One minister (Rev. Thomas Poulson), two of the members of the present board of trustees, and several others of the present efficient workers in our Church, were part of the fruit of his labor. This fruit, remaining after the lapse of twenty years, certainly speaks favorably of the character of the revivals had under his ministry. It is but fair to state that Brother Cookman gave an impulse and position to Methodism in West Chester such as it never had, and we still enjoy the benefits thereof. Though twenty years have rolled away since he labored here, his name is still like ‘precious ointment poured forth,’ and his memory is deeply revered by all who knew him. He is still called the most popular preacher of any denomination that ever stately ministered in West Chester. It is difficult to decide which was the stronger attraction for the people, his unassuming piety and sweet, loving spirit, or his thrilling eloquence that so enchained the multitudes.”

The session of the Philadelphia Conference in 1853 was held at Harrisburg, the capital of the State of Pennsylvania. Mr. Cookman's term had expired at West Chester, and in the course of the administration he must be sent to a new charge. He was undoubtedly the most popular young minister in the Conference. Several prominent churches within his Conference, and some from beyond it, applied for his services ; among them none pressed its claims with more persistence than the Locust

Street Church, Harrisburg, the seat of the Conference. The members of this charge were on the spot ; they had generously opened their homes for the entertainment of the preachers. Their suit prevailed ; and when the appointments were announced, and Alfred Cookman was read out for Locust Street, the crowded audience burst into a tumult of applause.

There could have been no situation better suited to promote Mr. Cookman's self-development and to extend his influence than this appointment. The borough of Harrisburg, containing about 8000 inhabitants, was beautifully located on the east side of the Susquehanna River, and, as the capital of the state, was a point where controlling business and political interests concentrated. In the winter time the Legislature drew together not only the members of the state government, but also leading men having ends to accomplish with the government. The Locust Street Church was conveniently located, and very soon his zeal and eloquence attracted general attention. He was elected chaplain of the House of Delegates, was selected to offer the prayer at the inauguration of Governor Bigler, and at this early age obtained relatively as great an ascendancy over the prominent politicians and the community at Harrisburg as his father had previously done over all classes at Washington. The following notice of his preaching, from one of the Harrisburg papers, shows the estimate in which he was held :

"ELOQUENT SERMON.—Rev. Mr. Cookman preached another eloquent sermon on Sunday evening. \* \* \* The whole discourse was replete with sublime thoughts and beautiful illustrations, and made a salutary and we trust a lasting impression upon the minds of the large and attentive auditory. One secret of Mr. Cookman's popularity and success as a preacher is that his sermons are *all* good, and that whatever emergency calls him forth, he has a peculiar faculty of happily adapting his discourse to the occasion. We have observed this in several instances, when Mr. Cookman has delivered impromptu addresses in response to unexpected calls made upon him. We like his sermons on account of their freshness and originality, and the thoroughness and earnestness

with which they are delivered. For a young man he is a speaker of superior ability. He has been thoroughly educated, and has all the finish which literary acquirements can bestow upon naturally fine powers of declamation. Mr. Cookman bids fair to win for himself a reputation for pulpit eloquence equal to that enjoyed by his eloquent and lamented father."

Toward the close of his first year Mr. Cookman was strongly urged to go to Pittsburgh to take charge of a new Church enterprise in that city, but a sense of duty to the charge he already occupied prevailed over the urgent invitation, and he remained and completed the full term of two years. His ministry was highly successful in adding members to the Church. The multitudes who frequented the sanctuary and listened to his beautiful imagery and forcible appeals, did not go away merely enchanted with the witchery of words and action; they remained to weep for their sins, and "to lay hold of the hope set before them in the Gospel." If the preacher culled flowers with which to please the fancy, he did not the less forge and hurl sharp arrows which pierced the consciences of his hearers. At the end of two years the Church had gained ninety members and seventy probationers, and increased equally in its financial and social standing.

Through these years the devoted pastor was also an active itinerant, going hither and thither throughout the state and in adjoining states, on all possible errands of evangelistic and literary labor. Traces of him appear among his Baltimore friends. It will be recollected that his father, in 1835, had written in a young lady's album. During a visit there, on the opposite page, he gave the subjoined exquisite expression of filial love :

"Nineteen years have elapsed since the hand of my beloved father pressed this leaf; and I can not express the gratification I feel in reading the beautiful incident which he here records, and in availing myself of the opportunity of penning upon the back of the same leaf a slight tribute to his cherished memory.

"Although a mere boy when he imprinted upon my cheek a burning kiss and whispered in my ear a last farewell, yet to-day I have his image dis-

tinctly daguerretyped upon my spirit, while his virtues shall ever be treasured as the very *choicest jewels* in the casket of my remembrance.

"With a largely endowed intellect, he possessed a capacious heart, which was literally filled with a wealth of affection. His lively interest in, and his abiding love for the different members of his family, forms the sweetest reminiscence of my life. Nor was his love confined to these. Breathing an atmosphere of kindness, he drew around him a large circle of dear and devoted friends. \* \* \*

"But alas! the withering thought, like a scorching sirocco, sweeps over the heart, that though he was, yet he is not. To use his own eloquent language, long ere this 'the sea-weed may have become his winding-sheet, and the coral rock his pillow;' but, if indeed the ocean is his magnificent mausoleum, the rolling, roaring surge his solemn requiem, and the floating iceberg his only tombstone, we encourage our hearts with the revelation that a day has been appointed when 'the sea shall give up its dead.' Then, *then* we shall meet him again, and be reunited in a world where 'love shall wreath her chain around us forever.' Oh! let us emulate his excellent example, that in heaven we may renew and eternally perpetuate our affectionate intercourse, and blend our voices in the triumphant hallelujahs of the skies.

ALFRED COOKMAN.

"Harrisburg, March 7, 1854."

Mr. Cookman had entered the field as a lecturer, and, judging from the comments of the press, obtained no mean success:

"The first of a series of lectures in the Methodist Episcopal Church, Fourth Street, of this city (Philadelphia), was delivered on Thursday evening of last week by the Rev. Mr. Cookman, of Harrisburg. The subject was the Bible. He is a very eloquent man. He delivered it without 'notes;' and on this account it was very impressive. There was a peculiarity in it which we think worthy of remark, although it may have been noticed by few of the audience. It was this: he availed himself of 'apt alliterations' artful aid," said that the Bible was the *basis*, the *bond*, the *bulwark*, and the *boast* of free institutions. It was the basis, because we derive from the Bible the best principles of government, and that from it alone we learn the lesson of self-government. Other books take up the subject from the circumference, and proceed thence to the centre; this begins at the centre, and works out to the circumference. In other words, those begin with society at large, and this with the individual. \* \* \*

"He showed that the Bible was the bond of our institutions, because it taught the universal brotherhood of Man, and knew no North, no South, no



East, no West. He showed it to be the bulwark of our Republic by comparisons with other governments in other days, which have passed away, because they had not the principles of the Bible to protect them from vice and its destructive tendencies. And he concluded by showing that the Bible was the boast of our free institutions, because it was designed for universal acceptance, and was universally circulated among us by Protestant Christianity, and on this branch of his subject he was *very* eloquent. He compared the different denominations, when met together to promote the distribution of the Bible in our happy land, and from thence throughout the world, to a rainbow—all the colors in the bow being distinctly visible, and yet happily harmonizing in one beautiful whole! And then concluded by calling upon us as *American citizens* to protect the Bible as the sheet-anchor of our liberties, and to act out the pretty sentiment, 'We won't give up the Bible.'

A year later he lectured again in Philadelphia, and received from another paper the following appreciative notice :

"On Monday evening we had the pleasure of hearing the fifth lecture of the course before the Young Men's Christian Association by the Rev. Alfred Cookman, of Pittsburgh. The Presbyterian Church, capacious as it is, was well filled with a cultivated and intelligent audience. The lecturer's theme was Concentrated Energy, and his remarks were mainly addressed to the young, urging upon them, in language at once argumentative, forcible, and eloquent, the necessity of a fixed purpose, pursued with untiring effort, or, in a word, of *concentrated energy*, as a prerequisite to success and distinction in any pursuit, and in *all* the pursuits of life. Mr. Cookman's style is clear and perspicuous, while it is at the same time brilliant and ornate. His voice, which is perfectly under his control, is remarkably distinct, musical, and sonorous, and his manner of delivery is highly oratorical and effective. His lecture gave unbounded satisfaction, and placed him high in the opinion of our people as a finished scholar and a popular speaker. Mr. Cookman, although quite a young man, has already won for himself an enviable reputation, and, if his life and health are spared, he will undoubtedly before many years stand in the very front rank of the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

While stationed at Harrisburg, he was invited to deliver the annual sermon before "The Society of Evangelical Inquiry of Dickinson College." The sermon was well received, and established for its author a high reputation with the students. In the evening of the same day on which this sermon was deliver-

ed, he preached at the Methodist Church in the town. It was the first time he had been in the old church since he was a boy in his father's household. Vivid and tender were the memories which rushed upon his heart, and he could not do otherwise than refer to his father and the occasion of his own conversion. We are so fortunate as to have a description of the effects of his preaching from an eye-witness, the Rev. J. Duey Moore, of the Baltimore Conference, who was then a youth resident in Carlisle. Writing to the Rev. John E. Cookman, he says :

"I remember, when I was a boy, your brother was invited to preach in Carlisle. In the morning he preached in the College Chapel, and at night in the old church, Main Street, the same church which your father had the charge of in other days. His theme was 'the Vision of Dry Bones.' The church was crowded. In concluding his sermon, he referred to his sainted father in a most touching manner ; the effect was beyond all human description. I remember hearing an old minister of our church who had sat under your father's ministry say, 'The form of George Cookman came before me while his son was preaching, to such an extent that I was carried back to the days when the crowds gathered to hear what I regarded the best pulpit orator I ever listened to.'

"After concluding his sermon, he gave an account of his conversion, which took place in that church when he was quite young. Speaking of it he said, 'Kneeling there (pointing to a bench at the right of the pulpit), a poor, distressed penitent, a brother in Christ, a member of the Presbyterian Church, by the name of Mr. Hamilton, came to me amid my sorrow, and, placing his hand upon my head, told me to "look fully to Christ, and He would save me ;" and as I tried to do as he told me, the darkness gave way, and, kneeling there with this dear brother by the Cross, great light and peace rested upon me. I was forgiven.' As your brother had not heard from Mr. Hamilton\* for

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\* Mr. Hamilton died in 1873, greatly honored and beloved by the people of Carlisle.

years, he thought he had passed to his reward ; but he (Mr. Hamilton) was in the church, and just as soon as the congregation was dismissed he walked to the altar and introduced himself to your brother. I will never forget their meeting. As the people were retiring from their pews, their eyes caught the venerable form of Mr. James Hamilton advancing toward the pulpit, and, as all eyes followed him until he came before your brother, they waited to see the result. Oh, how the people did weep as they looked upon two who had not met since they met amid the light of the Cross—one as a penitent, then crying ‘Save me!’ the other saying, ‘Christ can save!’ As I write I think I can see myself as I was then, holding my dear sainted father’s hand (he was an intimate friend of your father and brother), and, looking up into his face, saw the tears flowing down his cheeks while he looked upon this meeting.”

These two letters to his wife give pleasant glimpses of domestic love and pastoral fidelity.

To his wife, Mrs. Annie E. Cookman :

“HARRISBURG, Tuesday morning, —, 1853.

“I confidently expected to hear from you yesterday morning, and felt considerably disappointed when the postman reported No. 51 empty. The little missive arrived, however, last night, and was read over and over again. Your assurances of unwavering affection were very grateful to my feelings. In this world of insincere profession and mere external manifestation, it is delightful to know that there is one warm, true heart in which you may confidently repose. The genuineness of your love I have never questioned for an instant ; and, next to the Pearl of great price, prize it as the most precious of my heart’s jewels. Be assured that it is not foolishly expended. I am glad that our dear boys continue so well. May God in His providence spare their health and lives many, many years. They are two beautiful, blessed children, for whom we ought to be profoundly thankful to the Giver of every good and perfect gift. I am, of course, very anxious to have you at home again. All is desolation in your absence. Still, if you are realizing benefit in Columbia, I will not be so unwarrantably selfish as to urge your return. I can manage to exist, and will willingly live in hope a little longer if your welfare may be subserved. Make yourselves comfortable, get fat and

strong, and come home when you feel like it. Yesterday was another pretty full day. In the morning two funerals—a long walk in the hot sun and through the dust from the cemetery—in the afternoon running round, and at night a class to lead. I breakfasted at D.'s, dined at C.'s, and supped at Z.'s, with Miss Kate M—— and Mr. Alpheus W——, who returned together from P—— yesterday. This morning I breakfasted again at D.'s, shall dine at D.'s, and sup at C.'s. My neighbors and all my friends are very kind. Part of every afternoon I spend with poor J——, who seems perfectly resigned and composed in the prospect of death. Young McM.'s trial comes on next week. I suppose I shall hear from sister D—— (who has been out of town since last week) all the particulars respecting the contemplated camp-meeting. I believe I have given you all the news."

"HARRISBURG, Wednesday afternoon, 3 o'clock.

"I have just finished two letters, and before laying aside my pen will drop you a line. Here I am at my study-table again, attending to correspondence and other matters. Oh, that you were at my side! Oh, that I could look around and see the faces of my beautiful boys! After leaving you this morning I was hurried to Lancaster, where I spent my time very agreeably with Mr. E——, at Murray's book-store, and with Brother Bishop at his parsonage. Arrived at home in a snow-storm. Thought that perhaps you would accompany me. On my return found two letters, one from Heston, in Reading, the other from Janes, in Chambersburg; both asking me to come to their help. During my absence, Mrs. Wm. C—— sent a large market-basket full, piled up—about four pounds of almonds, four pounds of raisins, a peck of chestnuts and shell-barks, a large glass of calves'-foot jelly, a large fruit-cake, and a number of toys for the children." \* \* \*

## CHAPTER XI.

### MINISTRY AT CHRIST CHURCH, PITTSBURGH, PA.—INCREASING FAME AND USEFULNESS.

THE Methodists of Pittsburgh having completed their new and beautiful Christ Church, renewed their invitation to Mr. Cookman to consent to be transferred to take the charge of it. Their solicitations were seconded by Bishop Simpson, then a resident of Pittsburgh. Notwithstanding Mr. Cookman's love for his Conference, in view of the advice of the bishops and the noble enterprise at Pittsburgh, he accepted the invitation, and was transferred by Bishop Morris in the spring of 1855. It was not without regret that the people of Harrisburg parted with him. As evidence of the universal respect and affection with which he was regarded, I quote from one of the newspapers of the day:

“FAREWELL SERMON.—Rev. Mr. Cookman preached his farewell sermon on Sabbath evening. So great was the anxiety to hear it that the church was crowded to its utmost capacity at an early hour, and a large number of persons were unable to obtain seats at all. Mr. Cookman preached a discourse eminently appropriate to the occasion, and was more than ordinarily eloquent and impressive. He spoke with much apparent sincerity and feeling, and a large portion of the congregation were affected to tears. Mr. Cookman has labored in this community for two years with great success, and was respected and beloved not only by his own congregation, but by the people of our town generally. He was popular with all classes and all denominations, and his departure is universally regretted. He left Harrisburg yesterday afternoon for Pittsburgh, the scene of his future ministerial labors, carrying with him the heart-warm blessings of hundreds of true friends. May the largest prosperity attend him.”

How Mr. Cookman was impressed with Pittsburgh before his transfer.

To his wife :

"PITTSBURGH, Tuesday afternoon, June 14, 1854.

\* \* \* "About three o'clock the train came thundering along. Finding seats we hurried off, and until day-dawn dozed away the tedious moments. Then the scenery, wild and majestic, opened upon us, which of course we enjoyed richly and to the end of our journey. Some of the views in crossing the mountain transcend any thing I have ever beheld. Without accident we reached Pittsburgh in good time, not near as much fatigued as I frequently am after riding to Philadelphia. You will feel anxious to know what I think of Pittsburgh. Well, I must say I rather like it. True, there is a good deal of smoke and the houses generally look cloudy, but it is not near as bad as I anticipated. The buildings are good, some of the residences quite elegant, and every thing seems to exhibit the spirit of energy and enterprise. The place strongly reminds me of many English cities which I have visited. It is not unlike New York, more like it certainly than Philadelphia. I fancy that like myself you would be agreeably disappointed in Pittsburgh. I have already traversed the city pretty thoroughly ; among other places I have visited the new Christ M. E. Church, and do not think me enthusiastic or extravagant when I say that it is far, *far* ahead of any thing in the form of a Methodist Church I have ever seen. They are about finishing the basement, which is very handsomely frescoed and fitted up in elegant style. The audience-room will be most magnificent. I wandered through, as I desired, entirely *incognito*. If I can I will procure a lithographic representation of the edifice, that you may have some idea. Well, now, I hear you say, 'Just as I expected and prophesied. He had no business to go to Pittsburgh ; a convert already.' No, dear, I would prefer to remain in the Philadelphia Conference than to assume the responsibility which would devolve upon the pastor of such a charge. Very much would be expected, and I do not want to be obliged to meet such expectations. Worse things, though, you may rest assured, might happen to us than being sent to Pittsburgh. So far as I am concerned, with my beloved Annie and charming boys, I could be perfectly happy in a cabin on the tallest peak of the Alleghanies. It is your presence and enthusiastic love which covers my path with sunshine and makes me a happy home any where. You need not fear, I think, a transfer to Pittsburgh. I am staying at the *City Hotel*, kept by Messrs. Glass & Chase, gentlemen who have treated me already with very marked attention and favor. I wonder how you all are this evening. I think of you almost constantly, and am the happiest when I can bask in the refreshing radiance of your sunny faces. Well, I believe I have written all that I have to communicate just now. It is, I fear, an illegible

scrawl, penned in the midst of noise and confusion. Puzzle it out, however, and when you have done kiss yourself over and over again for one who loves you better than all the world beside. Then take up Bruner, and give him a dozen for his papa; then *petty Kenney*, and let her have an equal number.

Mr. Cookman was twenty-seven years of age when appointed to Christ Church. The new edifice, of the Gothic order of architecture, situated on Penn Street, was then the costliest church building in American Methodism, and was about the first decided advance in the new movement in architectural beauty in Methodist houses of worship. The number of members that brought this laudable undertaking to completion was small. They were, however, men of means, courage, and prayer. They felt that the right man in the pulpit would secure success. No higher mark of confidence could have been placed on Mr. Cookman than that he should be selected for so important a position.

The sequel proved the wisdom of the choice. Under his control, the enterprise moved off prosperously from the beginning, and the most sanguine expectations of its originators were fulfilled. Though young in years, he was a man of experience; courageous, and at the same time cautious, he showed both the ardor which prepared him to enter fully into the advanced views of his official men, and also the judgment to direct their earnestness with the steadiness and tact which insured the best results. His power to attract the people by his preaching was to be tested as never before. Heretofore his churches had been "free," and this was "pewed," but his ability was at once recognized, and his church was speedily filled. His faculty as an organizer was to be promptly and fully proved, and that, too, under circumstances peculiar and trying—but here, as in the pulpit, he showed himself eminently capable. It is doubtful if there be any surer test of the ability of a minister for administration as well as preaching and pastoral work than the successful guidance of a great and powerful Church, especially in

the forming periods of its existence. To balance all conflicting claims, to keep all the forces in accord, to incorporate new elements with the old without violence, to evoke and start enterprises into safe and effective channels, to impress all the workers and all the methods with a thoroughly spiritual stamp—all this requires talents of a high order, and talents well poised. The native sense and the admirable discernment of Mr. Cookman were never more displayed, before or since, than in the management of the affairs of Christ Church.

But while busy with his new charge in the first months of his pastorate, he does not forget the fond mother from whom he was so far separated. Could there be a more affectionate expression, alike creditable to him and to her, than this letter? I give it with its italicizing retained.

To his mother, Mrs. Mary Cookman :

“PITTSBURGH, May 25, 1855.

“Will’s letter reached us this week, bringing the unwelcome intelligence that you have been seriously ill. At such a time we feel it to be a duty and a privilege to take up our pen and express our sympathy and undying love. Your children may sometimes exhibit a censurable carelessness and indifference, but believe me there underlies their conduct as *enthusiastic affection* for their *mother* as ever found a place in a human heart. The effect of your instructions, and the influence of your kind, gentle nature, have been to win every noble feeling of which they are capable, and if they were to-day severally interrogated who is the best and purest among human kind, they would unhesitatingly answer, ‘*Our mother!*’ I have no greater happiness than to sit down and, in connection with the eventful past, dwell upon those *virtues* which you so beautifully developed in the midst of your family, and think of that ceaseless and *self-denying love* which always shed sunshine on our home. It was and is a *happy home!* the remembrance of which shall be dear to our hearts through the entire period of our earthly pilgrimage. *Thank you, dear mother, a thousand times over,* for your gushing sympathy, your faithful instructions, your consistent and beautiful example, your jealous care and unremitting efforts for the happiness and welfare of your children. You have been not only a good mother, but the *best of mothers*. Our appreciation of your character and services increases with our age; and when you are safely housed in glory, we will often come together and wonder that one



so pure and lovely was so long lent to us and the world. *My burning tears attest the sincerity* of the feelings I express—feelings which are largely shared by every member of your beloved family. Even Will, whom you occasionally deem a little headstrong and unmanageable, tells me in his *letter* that requirements which once seemed irksome to his independent nature are now regarded in an entirely different light. It is his *highest delight* to serve and gratify her whom he feels to be his *best and truest friend*. The loss of his mother, he states, would blot out every earthly joy, and make him almost wish for the oblivion of the death-slumber. Shall I ask you to excuse this spontaneous outburst of filial feeling? This, I am sure, will not be necessary, for while it has relieved my overflowing heart, it may, perhaps, kindle a pleasurable feeling in the bosom of one whom I *would be proud to make happy*. I hope by this time your sickness has been arrested, and you are able to attend to your domestic duties. When you feel that you can conveniently and comfortably take up your pen, we shall be most happy to receive one of your thrice-welcome letters. In the mean while charge one of the fraternity to act as your amanuensis, and let us at least know the state of your health and the course of domestic affairs. The children exhibit every day some new charm, some fresh attraction. Next week the Western Virginia Conference meets in Wheeling. If nothing should prevent, I think I will join a company of preachers and go down for a day or two. The Pittsburgh Conference meets in Johnstown on the 13th of June.”

Mr. Cookman had been transferred, and had entered upon his work in advance of the session of the Pittsburgh Conference. The transfer to a new Conference involved a trial to him, as it would to any man of like refined nature, and it was with no little misgiving that he looked forward to the session. A transfer for the express purpose of being appointed to the grandest and wealthiest Church of the Conference, would be likely to render him an object of a somewhat careful and cool attention. His fame had preceded him—would he measure up to it? His praise was in all the churches—was he proud and reserved? These and such questions would occur to brethren and to him. Methodist preachers are but men, and, like other men, they do not relish being dispossessed by strangers of the fields which their own hard toil has made to bud and bloom.

But it was impossible for a body of good men to have hard

feelings toward Alfred Cookman. He had only to show himself among his brethren, and all prejudice was disarmed. From youth there was that in him which transfused the hearts of all with love and confidence. The Pittsburgh preachers were won by his first looks and words. He impressed them as a true Methodist preacher, with a single aim, with all the instincts and habits of his brethren, and that he had come to Pittsburgh not for the sake of position, but for the good of souls and the weal of Methodism. His honors seemed to sit so lightly upon him, his whole demeanor in public and private was so savory of genuine modesty and deep piety, that, with a quickness and generosity so distinctive of their class, the ministers immediately extended to him the *entente cordiale*, which henceforth made him happy among them. A letter from the seat of the Conference shows as much.

To his wife, Mrs. Annie E. Cookman :

“JOHNSTOWN, PA., June 15, 1855.

“A pleasant ride in company with a number of preachers brought me to this mountain town about eleven o'clock. We immediately proceeded to the Methodist Church, where we found the Pittsburgh Conference transacting business. It was the work of only a few minutes to introduce me formally to the Conference, and for the Conference to receive my money for the superannuated and supernumerary preachers. In presenting this collection, I took occasion to make a few remarks complimentary to the Church which I represent. The brethren generally have extended to me a cordial welcome, and I begin to feel more at home. Yesterday afternoon the Sunday-school anniversary occurred. Addresses were delivered by a Brother Little, of the Erie Conference, Brother Torrence, and Dr. Peck. In the evening Brother Torrence preached in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Brother Williams in the Presbyterian Church. I concluded to hear the latter, and really was very much pleased. Indeed, I doubt if they have a better in the Conference. Strange to tell, I have found some little difficulty in getting one of the magnates to leave the seat of the Conference. Brother Torrence and some member of the Conference will, I think, consent to preach at Christ Church on the Sabbath. The missionary anniversary comes off on Saturday evening, and the brethren, as with one accord, desire and request that I remain to speak and preach on Sabbath morning in the Presbyterian Church.

These services, with a Bible speech on Monday evening, will perhaps make it proper for me to tarry in Johnstown, instead of returning on Saturday, as I had originally intended. I have thought a great deal about you since my departure. My wife and sons are the dearest idols of my affections, and I am never so happy as when I have you by my side. My home in Johnstown is at the house of a Mr. J——, the superintendent of extensive iron-works in this place. The family are recently from Tennessee, and exhibit all the blandness and affection of Southern nature. Bishop Morris, Brothers Hopkins and Torrence, are colleagues in these comforts. The people do the best they can, but, I apprehend, find themselves considerably crowded.”

The demands on Mr. Cookman for outside work increased, as from this prominent point the circle of his reputation constantly widened. From all directions the calls for special services flooded his table—requests for dedicating churches, for addresses, lectures, and all kinds of efforts in aid of old and new causes.

An address delivered during this period in Philadelphia, at Music Fund Hall, on behalf of the Bedford Street Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was probably one of the most effective of his life. It was elaborately prepared, and was delivered in his happiest style. The impression was deep, immediate, and abiding. His vehement oratory swept the vast audience whithersoever he listed. He and the cause he pleaded were from that evening, if they had not been previously, thoroughly intrenched in the hearts of the hearers. Back again among his early friends a visitor, he came freighted with the best thoughts he could command, his soul in closest sympathy with missions among the destitute, and his nature fired by old associations and glowing with the love of Jesus, he rose with the hour, the place, the audience, and it was thought by many that they had rarely, if ever, listened to a more powerful, popular address.

The letter which follows, written to his youngest brother, John, now the Rev. John E. Cookman, a member of the New York Conference, will be read with interest. His views on Biblical schools may be regarded by some as behind the times.

Yet the ground of his objections were felt to be weighty by many minds as recently as fifteen years ago. Even now there are a few in other denominations besides the Methodist who have grave questionings as to the positive benefit of the training of theological schools. It is feared by them that it tends to make machine men, to quench native fire ; to create generations of preachers who will carry from the seminary too much the tone and manner of a " faculty ;" that, while it may produce theologians, it will educate the students too far away from the people to fit them as preachers for the masses, and so raise up ministers for this and coming ages who will not be, in all respects, as effective and successful as those hitherto known in Methodism.

Although it is now conceded that theological schools have become a necessity of the Church, yet I regard it as no discredit to our friend that he cherished and expressed the feelings contained in this letter. It is for those who have the charge of these schools to see to it that his fears and the fears of thousands as sincerely devoted to the Church are not realized. Said Robert Hall of the learned Kippis, " He might be a very clever man by nature, for aught I know, but he laid so many books upon his head that his brains could not move." Vital force, springing from the heart as the motor—the one indispensable condition of effective preaching—was what our friend believed more and more with each succeeding year of his ministry. Goethe says :

" What you don't feel, you'll never catch by hunting ;  
It must gush out spontaneous from the soul ;  
And with a fresh delight enchanting  
The hearts of all that hear, control."

To his brother, Mr. John E. Cookman :

" PITTSBURGH, July 22, 1856.

" To say that your letter afforded me great pleasure, expresses but feebly the real feelings of my heart. While I know that you had always associated with your future the work of the ministry, still I began to fear that business and the world were becoming so attractive and absorbing that you would

be diverted from a nobler and more useful sphere. What was my joy, then, to hear from yourself that your present employments failed to satisfy the desires and ambition of your nature, and, in obedience to conscientious convictions, you felt like preparing yourself to do the work of an evangelist.

"From personal experience I know the importance, aye, the necessity of *divine help and strength* in a situation similar to that in which you are placed. Therefore, while I will most cheerfully render you such advice and assistance as may be in my power, at the same time I would impress you with the propriety and advantage of fleeing to the strong for strength. Hide yourself in God. Trust for providential direction, and you shall not stray or stumble. The God of the fatherless, in so important a step as that which you contemplate, will certainly and satisfactorily exhibit a superintending agency, and in the future you will review the whole with gratitude and joy. My first and most fervent counsel, therefore, would be that you yield yourself up *fully* unto God. Let no idol, no secret sin, no unwillingness to toil or sacrifice or suffer, debar you from the full realization of your privileges in the Gospel of God's dear Son. However imperfect your mental and physical developments may seem to yourself, there is no reason why, as a Christian, you should not rival a Fletcher, a McCheyne, a Summerfield, in their almost seraphic purity and zeal and devotion. Attend, then, to the all-important subject of personal piety in the first instance, and I have no fear for the rest. God will overrule all for your benefit and His glory.

"With respect to the importance or advantage of a college course, I am not entirely clear or satisfied. Had you not spent four years in the Philadelphia High-School, I should not be in so much doubt. I remember, however, that you have acquired, to a considerable extent, habits of study; you have obtained pretty general information on the different branches of science, which will serve as a foundation on which to build in the future; you have received regularly and legitimately the degree of A.B., which of course will be followed in due time with an A.M. In these respects you are very far in advance of a large majority of those who are admitted to our Methodist itinerancy. Then, when I think of the associations and influences which are found in most colleges, I tremble lest my cherished brother, for whose success I am so deeply concerned, should be moved off the sure foundation. A Biblical institute, as a substitute for a college, has been presented to my mind, but here again I have my difficulties. I should fear that its influence would be to subdue that enthusiasm which I believe will prove in the future your charm and your power.

"The truth is, I am only about half-persuaded in my mind respecting the advantages of such schools. I compare the genuine Methodist preacher,

whose soul is one blaze of holy zeal—whose mind, self-disciplined, is filled with practical and profitable truth—whose aim is so single that his whole life is a striking commentary upon the sentiment, ‘This one thing I do’—who goes through the world like fire through the prairie; I say I compare such a one with a critical, metaphysical, Germanized student of divinity, who, perhaps, looks as blue and feels as cold as if he had been shivering in an ice-house, and who preaches as stiffly as if his lips and heart and arms had all been literally frozen. There is no kind of doubt but I can find self-made men in the Methodist Episcopal Church who are not only equal but superior to others of our own and sister denominations who can boast the advantages of literary and theological training. With respect, however, to this matter, I would not determine for you. If you feel that college studies would increase your mental discipline as no other exercise could, I would not utter a word of discouragement, but rather a hearty ‘*God-speed!*’ I am rather inclined to the conclusion that Brush College, after all, will prove the best school for the development of your physical and intellectual powers. If you could spend the autumn and winter in reading, composing, and exercising as opportunity might offer, and in the spring take an easy circuit, as for instance Village Green or Springfield, I believe that you would accomplish as much for yourself and for the Church as you would by conjugating Latin verbs and studying heathen mythology. If you feel inclined to this latter course, my home and humble services are at your disposal. I appreciate the peculiarity and perplexities of your situation, and, while I scarcely feel prepared to advise, would earnestly counsel that you seek wisdom from God, who giveth liberally and upbraideth not.”

Mr. Cookman was able to go up to the session of the Pittsburgh Conference in 1856 with a good showing for the year. The number of members had increased from ninety to one hundred and thirty-two, and twenty-six probationers. He reported \$738 for the general missionary collection, and \$300 for the Bible cause—remarkable advances upon all former contributions. At the seat of the Conference he was called upon to speak, in connection with the Rev. Dr. Durbin and others, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Conference Missionary Society. A correspondent of the Pittsburgh *Christian Advocate* wrote of the speeches:

“The Rev. Alfred Cookman, of Penn Street Church, Pittsburgh, and Dr. John P. Durbin electrified the audience with two of the most powerful

speeches to which it has been our privilege to listen. Cookman is a gifted son of eloquence, and nature has given him a most exuberant fancy. His speeches abound in the most gorgeous imagery, and in this respect he is said to resemble his distinguished father. Of Durbin, as a great thinker and a great orator, it is scarcely necessary to speak. He presented some most striking thoughts on the subject of missions. Cookman's speech might be said to abound with the lightning-flashes of genius, while Durbin followed in one continued thunder-roll of ponderous thought."

The same correspondent noticed Mr. Cookman's sermon on the Sabbath, in the Presbyterian Church, in these terms:

"We would as soon think of daguerreotyping the storm, or with our feeble voice of imitating the roar of the thunder, as to undertake to convey to our readers the impression made by Cookman's sermon. Certain we are that of all who heard it, no one will forget it."

Writing, also, of a Bible speech he made at the same session, he said it was "a speech such as no man but one of his peculiar gifts could make."

These descriptions, while due allowance may be made for the enthusiasm excited by the youth of Mr. Cookman, give proof of the high appreciation in which his gifts were held by one who was probably a member of the Conference. They also show the tireless energy of the young minister in thus standing forward on three important occasions to plead in causes of the first magnitude. Neither then nor afterward did the thought of saving himself or his *capital* ever seem to enter his mind. What he could do for the Master was done to the best of his ability, and there the matter rested.

The following letters reveal the depth of his religious and domestic affections.

To his wife, Mrs. Annie E. Cookman :

"PITTSBURGH, Saturday night, —, 1856.

"How thankful I was for your letter, breathing so much of true devotion. I assure you that it came to me in my desolation like an angel of light. I need not say that your enthusiastic affection finds the very *warmest* reciprocation in my heart. To say that you are the dearest object of my heart and

life, is to tell the truth but feebly. How I thank God that I was ever permitted to gaze upon your sunny face and claim you as my own. God bless you, precious Annie, and spare your valuable life many, many years.

"Last evening I met all my young members. The room was quite filled with those converted through my unworthy instrumentality. I think they promise not a little to the Church. This afternoon I had the Sabbath-school together. Our meeting was very pleasant and profitable. To my great joy, quite a number of General Conference delegates arrived to-day.\* The prospect is that I will be relieved from preaching on the morrow. Dr. Hodgson stayed with me last night, but went on this morning. Dr. McClintock and Rev. A. A. Reese dined at Dr. W.'s to-day. I was one of the invited. \* \* \*

"I am still at Mr. S.'s. They do every thing in their power to render me happy and comfortable. I suppose you are this evening at the Columbia homestead. Two letters mailed during the week would probably await your arrival. Have I not proven a faithful correspondent? Well, I deserve little credit, as it is really no ordinary happiness for me to sit down and commune through even this unsatisfactory medium with her who is all the world to me—especially when I know my letters are adding to your pleasure.

"Kiss my boys for poor papa. Tell them that I intend to bring up their carriage out of the cellar, and have it all ready for their occupancy and use. 'Billy' keeps quiet and well, not objecting to see his little masters. He is all ready for a ride."

To his wife, Mrs. Annie E. Cookman:

"PITTSBURGH, Tuesday afternoon, April 29, 1856.

"Your letter written on Friday evening came to hand on Monday. I feel glad and grateful that our Heavenly Father cares for your health and safety and happiness. Young S—— informed me on Sabbath night that he had seen you and the children on Saturday in Columbia. The very fact that he *had seen* you so recently excited no little interest in my mind. I am managing to *exist* in your absence. It is not living, and yet I bear it because I think that you are happier in the East than you would be *perhaps* in Pittsburgh. You know that your comfort is my rule and constant object. The smoky city, however, is not the worst place in the creation. The people are very kind, and there is a great deal to render a residence here desirable and delightful.

"My friends (the S.'s) are unremitting in their attentions. God forbid that I should forget their friendly treatment.

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\* On their way to Indianapolis.



“On Sabbath I was relieved from preaching. The Rev. Norval Wilson, of Baltimore, occupied the pulpit in the morning, and the Rev. William Cooper, of Philadelphia, in the evening; two very good sermons. Next Sabbath we commence our afternoon service. Of course I deprecate the change.

“You must have had a very charming visit to Philadelphia. It will furnish matter for delightful retrospect and conversation for months to come.”

To his brother, Mr. William Wilberforce Cookman, on receiving the news of his conversion :

“PITTSBURGH, February 19, 1857.

“Tuesday’s mail brought the most delightful letter I have received for a very long time. It was a letter from dear mother, filled with the details of your conversion. Like our precious parent, I have been specially concerned for your religious welfare. Two or three times this winter I have been on the point of addressing you a few lines. As my protracted meeting has progressed, I have not only thought of you, but in prayer have wrestled for your salvation. How *rejoiced*, then, was I, to learn that you had resolutely espoused the cause of the Saviour, and were triumphing in a consciousness of sins forgiven. Indeed, when I read mother’s letter, the fountains of my nature broke open, and I poured forth copious tears of thankfulness and joy. This morning your fraternal epistle came to hand, and, as I glanced over its lines in returning from the post-office, I found that my cup was again running over. Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me, bless and praise His holy name. I am delighted that your experience is of so definite and satisfactory a character. This is desirable, not only because it adds to the sum of our peace at the present, but because it constitutes our conversion a great *landmark* in our life, to which, in future years, we can revert with special pleasure and profit. You may expect in the future to suffer through manifold and powerful temptations; still, if in the midst of the trial you will only maintain your integrity and Christian profession, the temptation or temptations shall really answer a good purpose in establishing your faith and strengthening your godly virtues. It is in the storm or tempest that the sailor learns what he never could have learned if all around had continued calm and prosperous; then, of all times, he is becoming the practiced and thorough seaman. When tempted or tried, remember the Rock that is higher than thou. Go to God; with the simplicity of a son or a child, tell Him all your doubts and fears and desires; plead the promises of His Word; and, as in thousands of instances, so in your case, He will surely make a way for your escape. I need not represent the advantage and importance of a *daily* reading of the Holy Scriptures. This is an exercise

which you appreciate and will observe. Neither need I dwell upon the necessity of frequent prayer. *Morning, noon, and night* you will be found before God, pouring your wants and requests into His ever-attentive ear. Have you *joined the Church*? Remember that this is not only a great privilege, but a scriptural duty. You will find within the pale of the Christian Church sympathy and assistance as they can not be found elsewhere. Uniting yourself with a *class*, lay it down as a *principle* or *rule* of your life always to attend when it is possible to go. A man who regularly attends his class-meeting can not very well backslide. Associate with your experience and profession increasing religious *activity*. This sustains the same relation to our *spiritual* life that stated physical exercise does to our natural life. Enter *every avenue of usefulness*. Do all the good in your power. Resolve that the world shall be better for your having lived in it. *My precious brother, my heart goes out after you in sincerest and strongest affection*. You were always *dear* to me because of the noble elements which constitute your nature, but you are *doubly dear* since your regeneration. I feel now that

“Our hopes and aims are one,  
Our comforts and our cares !”

“We may warrantably indulge the delightful hope that *our fraternal love*, overleaping the river of death, will be perpetuated coeval with the existence of the soul.

“I still feel the deepest and liveliest interest in your *secular* affairs. With the blessing of God, which you can now confidently implore and expect, all will be well. Can we not persuade George to give God his heart? If he would yield, then we would be an undivided family in the Church of Jesus Christ. Let us agree to pray for him.”

A few brief extracts from Mr. Cookman's pocket-diary of 1856 afford further illustration of his piety and zeal at this period :

“*January 1.*—Attended a Sunday-school convention in the evening, and made a speech. Have realized during the day much peace arising from a sense of entire consecration to God.

“*January 2.*—Preached in the evening from ‘Choose ye,’ etc. Two came forward for prayers. Some prospect of a revival. My mind is kept in peace while stayed upon God.

“*January 3.*—Spent the morning in my study; visited Mr. F——; exhorted in the evening; two penitents; one conversion. \* \* \* Still realize the comfort growing out of an entire consecration of self to God.

“*January 4.*—Good meeting at night; four at the altar. Still trusting in Christ.

"*January 6.*—Preached in the morning ; catechized Sunday-school children in the afternoon ; heard Rev. B—— at night. A very precious Sabbath. In the evening enjoyed an unusual baptism of the Spirit.

"*January 7.*—At preachers' meeting realized an unspeakable trust and joy in God. \* \* \* The general class in the evening was a discouraging failure. My confidence in Christ is unabated.

"*January 8.*—A glorious meeting at night ; the Church in earnest and eight at the altar. To God be all the glory.

"*January 9.*—My peace still flows as a river ; \* \* \* meeting grows in interest ; twelve at the altar ; two conversions. Oh, for an unprecedented outpouring of the Spirit !

"*January 10.*—Glory to God for the privilege of living in a state of entire consecration ; \* \* \* excellent meeting ; thirteen or fourteen at the altar.

"*January 11.*—My heart is fixed trusting in the Lord ; glorious meeting at night ; seventeen at the altar ; the members are rallying to the work.

"*January 12.*—Realize great peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ; twenty at the penitents' meeting to-day.

"*January 15.*—Met Tract Committee—occupied most of my morning ; visited ; excellent meeting in the evening ; Bishop Simpson with us ; fourteen at the altar ; two converted. 'Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name !'

At the close of Mr. Cookman's second year in Pittsburgh, spring of 1857, his return to the Philadelphia Conference was requested and granted. Before dismissing this important term of his ministry, I insert an estimate of his services at Christ Church from the pen of Dr. Wright, a member of its official board :

"For a young man of comparatively little experience as a preacher in charge, to be called to the pastorate of an undertaking from which so much was expected on the one hand, and so much disaster to the cause of Methodism prophesied on the other, gave rise to much discussion as to the propriety of the appointment, many urging that a preacher of more experience would be better.

"Under these somewhat embarrassing circumstances, which were known to our young brother, he came doubting, but *firmly trusting*. When I first met him one cold, dreary, Pittsburgh

March morning, he looked any thing but joyful. I introduced him to my family as our expected young preacher of whom they had heard me speak so often, and was disposed to be cheerful over his coming; but the young preacher was not so disposed, and looked sad, and with a grave expression said: 'I am here to obey orders, but my opinion is that the officiary of your Church have made a mistake in asking my transfer to this important charge. I hope it has been ordered through your prayers, for I feel greatly the need of aid from on high to enter upon the discharge of the duties.' He then spoke of the magnitude of the enterprise, and his belief that the success of such efforts for the future would be determined in a great measure by the first years of their history. Thus believing, he said he felt the weight of the responsibility all the more, that its organization should be a success in every way, especially in the salvation of sinners and the upbuilding of the Church for good.

"He entered upon his duties as the first pastor of Christ Methodist Episcopal Church the following Sabbath, and preached to a crowded house from the 6th chapter and 14th verse of Galatians, 'God forbid,' etc. The cross of Christ and the atoning blood of the Lamb, ever beautiful and powerful to save, was the burden of his theme on that day. The timid young man of the day before was now as bold in the annunciation of the truths that centre around the cross as Paul, whom he so much loved, and upon whose character he loved to dwell. If there had been any doubts about the propriety of calling the young brother to the new charge, they were all dispelled by the impression produced upon the minds and hearts of his first congregation. A good, happy brother was asked, on coming out of church, what he thought of the sermon: 'Ah!' he replied, 'there is no German silver about that—it has the true ring of the genuine metal.'

"In the organization of Christ Church membership from the various Methodist congregations in Pittsburgh, Brother Alfred

Cookman performed a delicate task, in which he acted with the good sense and judgment of more mature years and experience. Under the inspiration of his consecration to the work of the salvation of sinners, Alfred Cookman developed while at Christ Church some of the noblest traits of his manhood, and showed what was possible when the man is devoted to his Master's work. The fervor of his longings for the conversion of sinners was always marked by a deep and loving pathos, expressed with singular beauty and propriety of language, that rarely failed in making a deep and lasting impression. The congregations that waited upon his ministry while in Pittsburgh were large—often so crowded that persons had to leave for want of room.

“One of the elements of his great success in Pittsburgh was his love and devotion to the Sabbath-school interests of the Church. He organized a large school, and never did he seem more in his element than when working among the children; and never was there a body of children who seemed to be happier and gave more attention than when he was talking to them—either in examining them in their catechism, illustrating their scriptural lesson, or in telling some story that pointed a moral which was always fixed in their minds by some appropriate illustration.

“Many of the children of the school came early under the influence of religion, gave their names to the Church, and Brother Alfred lived long enough to see several of the boys thus brought to Christ preachers, two of whom are now in the Baltimore Conference.

“In his devotion to the Sabbath-school interests of Christ Church he was ably assisted by his excellent wife, who had charge of the infant class-room. In all of his responsible duties and relations to Christ Church he was ever faithful to the great trust imposed upon him, and his Master abundantly blessed and honored him with great success in bringing a large and

influential membership together, and establishing an objective point for Methodism in Pittsburgh.

“He impressed the large and wealthy congregation with the importance and duty of contributing generously of their means. The after-history of this Church shows that they have not forgotten his injunction, but have gone on increasing their gifts, till now Christ Church stands among the first in the Methodist Episcopal Church as a contributor to all the interests of the Church.”

Two letters written subsequently from Pittsburgh to his wife present a very grateful proof of Mr. Cookman's attachment to the Christ Church friends as well as of their affection for him. They were written when he was on a visit to Pittsburgh :

“PITTSBURGH, Monday morning.

“I have time for a few lines. Despite the storm and gloomy prospect, I started from Harrisburg on Saturday afternoon, and without detention reached Pittsburgh about two A. M. on Sabbath morning. The *Union Hotel* is a part of the Pennsylvania dépôt, and there I made myself comfortable until church-time. Brother K—— called for me in his carriage about ten o'clock, and we proceeded together to Christ Church. The snow-storm still continuing, influenced the congregation, but notwithstanding we had the house well filled. I had a blessed time in preaching. The friends flocked enthusiastically around. We have no warmer friends than these large-hearted Pittsburghers. The M.'s would take me in their splendid carriage to their elegant home for dinner. In the afternoon I addressed the Sunday-school ; then supped at James B.'s, who has a beautiful home on Penn Street, and in the evening preached again to a congregation larger than that gathered in the morning. This evening I preach again, and leave in the ten P. M. train for Harrisburg. Pittsburgh is sharing at this time wonderful revival influences. The daily prayer-meetings are held in the largest churches, and are crowded with interested persons. I observed Mrs. Simpson and Miss Ella in my congregation yesterday. This morning I propose to step in and pay them my respects. Mrs. H—— was in her pew clad in the deepest mourning. I of course will call on her during the day. The P—— family were all in their places, and exceedingly kind. The K.'s have moved farther out. They have a nicer home than before. Whether that —— will come is doubtful, but this morning God gave me sweetly this Scripture

—‘Why take you thought for raiment,’ etc. ‘For *your Heavenly Father knoweth* that ye have need of these things.’ This was so delightful that I can leave the whole matter. \* \* \* My soul is full of love for and trust in Jesus. In a spiritual sense all is well. My soul is clothed in a spotless robe that never wears out. Glory to the Lamb! The people here are very anxious to see you. They speak of you with true, warm, deep love.”

“PITTSBURGH, Friday morning, 12 o’clock, 1868.

“Here I am in smoky Pittsburgh, smoky enough—never smokier. We left Philadelphia last evening at eight o’clock. My berth was wide and clean and comfortable. I lay down about ten P.M., rested delightfully, and rose this morning about seven, as we were descending the mountain. At half-past nine we alighted at the Pittsburgh dépôt, and proceeded to B.’s office; found him in his arm-chair, and received a brother’s welcome. He secured for me a pass to and from Chicago, so that my railroad expenses will not bankrupt me. I have called this morning on a number of brethren, who express undiminished love for their former pastor. A little while ago I wandered through the church, the place of my former ministrations; saw the house where Frank was born—the stone steps where dear Brunie would await me when I was returning from the East. The rush of memories nearly overpowered me. More of Pittsburgh when we meet. The wedding yesterday was a grand affair. No expense was spared. The company was not very large; the entertainment superb. M—— looked and behaved beautifully. Her husband impressed me most favorably. They went off in the half-past six train to take possession of their new and elegant home in Brooklyn. A beautiful wreath was presented for Mrs. Cookman, and a basket of flowers for her husband. Last, but not least, the fee was —. I have carefully placed it in my watch-pocket, and, if the temptation is not too strong to spend it, I will let you pick my pocket on my return. I am very well this morning, and expect to start for Chicago in the two o’clock train, reaching my destination about eleven o’clock to-morrow morning. It is a long journey, and I expect to get enough of it to last me a lifetime. Mr. Punshon is in Chicago; *preaches there to-day*. I hope, however, to hear him on the Sabbath. Oh, if my darling wife was only with me, then I should be entirely satisfied. Your joy is my joy, and I know you would be delighted to travel with your itinerant husband. I am with you in spirit almost constantly, and fervently ask our kind Heavenly Father to watch over you during our absence one from another. Love to all the friends. Kiss my dear children for their papa. Tell them to be kind and quiet and good.”

The Rev. W. M. Paxton, D.D., now of New York, who was the

pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh when Mr. Cookman was at Christ Church, has furnished a very pleasing testimony to the excellence of his character and the usefulness of his ministry. After referring to some of the difficulties which Mr. Cookman had to meet, he says :

“ He, however, proved himself fully equal to the emergency. I now look back with admiration upon the masterly manner in which he met all these difficulties, and turned hostility into friendship. His humble, unpretending manner disarmed prejudice ; his sincere, honest heart inspired confidence ; his loving, gentle spirit won the affection of the people ; and his able and eloquent preaching gave him a high place in the estimation of the public. His success became apparent upon the first day the church was opened, and before the close of the first year he had dissipated all opposition, gathered around him a large and influential congregation, and established himself in the regard of the whole community. At the end of one year, when his first term of service expired, such was the desire, not only of his own congregation but of the whole community, to retain his services, that the bishops were constrained to renew his appointment.

“ His whole work in Pittsburgh was admirable in every way. He organized his congregation well, preached well, and was instrumental in the conversion of many souls. But, beyond all this, he had a large catholic spirit, which brought him into useful fellowship with his brethren of other denominations, and enlisted him in every good work. He was in every sense a Methodist, but he was not a narrow denominationalist ; and, above all, he had nothing in his heart to keep him from rejoicing in the success of another’s work.

“ His residence in Pittsburgh being within two doors of my own, an intimacy sprang up between us, which soon ripened into a warm and lasting friendship. The more I knew of him the more I loved him. He had an honest heart that inspired trust,



and made me feel that all his expressions, either of opinion or friendship, could be relied upon. His religion was deep, earnest, and controlling. He believed in heart religion because he had an experience of it, and out of the abundance of his heart his mouth spoke. With him religion was a pervading principle, controlling all thought and action. 'He walked with God.' He realized more than most Christians the personal presence of the Saviour, and had many blessed seasons of high and holy communion as on the Mount. It was upon this rich treasury of heart experience that he drew largely for his sermons. His spontaneous conversation was upon religion; it was in his heart, and he delighted to talk of it. I have many precious recollections of such conversations. He was in all his views and convictions a Methodist, and yet in his experience he was so much of a Calvinist that we had many 'good times together.'"

The subjoined characterization of Mr. Cookman and his work appeared at the time of his leaving Pittsburgh in one of the daily papers of the city :

"Rev. Alfred Cookman has been with us but two years, yet in that short time he has indelibly impressed us with his sincerity as a Christian, his worth as a gentleman, and his ability as a pulpit orator. To his value as a Christian, his life and zeal in the cause he assumes testifies. Of his worth as a gentleman, the many and warm attachments formed during his short residence with us are the assurances. Of his ability as an orator, the large and discriminating audiences which have attended him are the very best evidences.

"Viewing the tenets of his Church in a spirit of liberality, austerity has not characterized his teaching; inspired with the social value of courtesy, his etiquette has not been based upon an exclusive code. Carefully regarding the end in view, he has not perverted the gifts of oratory to the gratification of vanity. But subordinating every thing to the objects of his ministry, he has worthily maintained the dignity of the Christian teacher. Ignoring fanaticism in religion, he has not failed to discharge his duties as a citizen. Marking the nice distinction between Christian morality and political ethics, he has saved his congregation the scandal too many have suffered where the

sanctuary has been desecrated by the introduction of party issues. Yet, with an ardent patriotism that finds a fitting response within the hearts of all who love their country, and which rises too far above mere party to be subjected to its criticism, he has pointed out the breakers which threaten our noble Ship of State, and conjured us by his eloquence to cling to the Bible as the only compass by which she may be safely directed.

"For all this we regret his loss. Succumbing to its necessity, we can only, with the poet, bid him

"Go, speed the stars of thought  
On to their shining goals;  
The sower scatters broad his seed,  
*The wheat thou strewest be souls.'*"

He and his family took their final leave of Pittsburgh at the midnight hour. So intense was the feeling at parting with them, that large numbers of their friends formed a procession and accompanied them to the dépôt, where they took the train for Philadelphia.

## CHAPTER XII.

MINISTRY AT GREEN STREET CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA.—

REMARKABLE REVIVAL.

MR. COOKMAN'S return to Philadelphia was heartily received by his brethren of the Conference and the laymen of the city. The Green Street charge was especially favored in securing his services as their pastor. His fame as a preacher and his efficiency as a worker had greatly augmented since he had left Kensington Station, and his advent to the city was adapted to awaken much delight and expectation. The Green Street Church was a new, tasteful, and commodious building, with free seats, situated among a dense population, and offered every advantage for the popular talents of the zealous pastor. He was now perfectly in his element. With loving kindred and genial friends about him, a comfortable, though not pretentious home, a large and enthusiastic society of helpers, a crowded and sympathizing congregation, he entered upon a career of popularity and usefulness which may be regarded as an epoch in his ministry.

It is doubtful if Philadelphia Methodism has known in its whole history a pastoral term of two years more signally fraught with proofs of the divine favor and the stable results of evangelical ministrations than these of our friend at Green Street. The scenes under his preaching—the perpetual blaze of revival, the marked cases of conversion and sanctification—were more like the occurrences of primitive Methodism, and showed conclusively that the ancient glory had not departed from the sons of the fathers. At the close of his second year he reported seven hundred members and one hundred and fourteen proba-

tioners—a net gain of two hundred and thirty-five persons—with large advances in all the collections for benevolent objects, especially in that for the missionary cause.

As an explanation in part of the eminent success of Mr. Cookman at Green Street, it may be said that it took place during the great religious revival of 1857 and 1858. An awakening seldom paralleled pervaded all classes of society and churches of every communion, extending from the cities to the country districts, until there was not a hamlet, however remote, which did not feel its power. Waves of divine blessing, in rapid succession, rolled over the land; religion was at the flood—it was the theme on every lip; men turned aside from the busy mart at the hour of noon, and thronged the places of prayer; the workshop, the drinking-saloon, the theatre, the highway, became consecrated places, where the voice of singing and of supplication from earnest penitents and exultant converts was heard; the sanctuaries were crowded with men and women, asking what they must do to be saved; not alone the women and children, but men—strong, wicked men, who hitherto had neither regarded man nor feared God—mourned for their sins, and rejoiced in the freedom of forgiveness; ministers whose popularity had declined were invested with new favor, and the different denominations, that had been until recently either antagonistic or indifferent, were suddenly fused into a thorough union and co-operation.

Mr. Cookman knew enough to put himself abreast this divine flood, and to move with it. Neither the general spirit of revival nor his tact can wholly explain his success.

It is proper to call attention to an important fact of personal experience, which rendered his ministry at Green Street, in his own opinion, the most pregnant period of his history. It will be remembered that within a few months after obtaining the evidence of “perfect love,” through inadvertency he lost it. Through these years his position on this great

subject had not been at all satisfactory to himself. It had been hesitating. Doubts, questionings had disturbed his mind; and though he was mainly in sympathy with the doctrine of "full salvation," still there was neither a definite view nor a settled experience. His ministry was acceptable and useful; he was truly devoted to God and His cause, but yet he was ill at ease, and his soul, under a deep sense of unrealized power, was often sorrowful. The war of contending feelings marred his peace and frittered his strength; something he needed to lift him out of this conflict, and to develop all the resources of his spiritual nature into the utmost unity and force. The Spirit of God was gently but surely leading him backward and forward at the same time—backward to the simple, child-like faith in which he stood at Newtown, and forward to the same faith, re-enforced by an experience which could more fully guard it, through a knowledge of the errors that caused its forfeiture, and the memory of the bitterness which that forfeiture had entailed.

Whatever had been lost during these ten years of comparative failure, all was not lost. I do not mean that simply a saved, justified condition had been maintained; this no one can question; but I mean that there had been progress in the deeper knowledge of God's Word, in the more thorough insight to his own heart, in the increased confidence in the agencies of the Gospel, acquired by a longer and broader observation—all of which constituted preparations for that subsequent experience which in its marks and results became so signal and abiding. To one who has gained some great height by untrodden and devious paths, there may seem a much straighter course when he looks back over the broad sweep through which he has passed; but he can not say that any step, much less which step, has been useless in the successive steps that have brought him to the eminence on which he stands.

There is a certain positiveness in a knowledge which is worked out for one's self, to which the soul comes through its own prov-

ings amid doubts, fears, temptations, that imparts a conviction of truthfulness, a tenacity of purpose, which is an indispensable element in him who in any sense is to be a leader in God's advanced hosts. The stand which Alfred Cookman was about to take at Green Street for the doctrine of "perfect love" would be quite a different stand from that which he took on Attleboro Circuit in the first inexperienced months of his ministry; not different in the nature of the work accomplished, nor in the evidences accompanying it, but in the increased capacity which he would have to understand, to hold, and to propagate it. Thenceforth neither the jokes of his brethren nor the arguments of those who, either for cavil or conscience, saw fit to differ with him, would be able to move him.

It was not a necessity that he should have lost the witness of entire sanctification, much less that he should have continued so long a time without its restoration, but it is a significant fact in the history of many of those who have received this witness that they seldom remain from the beginning uninterruptedly in its possession and enjoyment. From want of a full perception of the conditions of the higher order of life, from a defect of judgment which can be corrected only by experience, the soul which has rejoiced in the evidence of love made perfect not unfrequently comes under a darkness which is more or less protracted. One of the most merciful provisions of Christianity is that all believers, of whatever stage of attainment or degree of faith, may so long as they live learn by the things which they suffer, and be corrected by their very mistakes. It is of God's infinite wisdom and goodness so to sanctify to the good man even his errors, that by them he shall rise into a corrected and purer life.

In the summer of 1856, while at Pittsburgh, Mr. Cookman entered into a covenant with God, which began to give shape to his subsequent experience:

"Restlessly anxious to enjoy an abiding witness of entire

sanctification to God, fully satisfied that this is not only a high and holy privilege, but a solemn and peremptory obligation, I, Alfred Cookman, on this 16th day of July, 1856, do record the following covenant, with a humble reliance on supernatural help to assist me in fulfilling it:

"1. I will considerably, solemnly, cheerfully, fully devote myself to God, consecrating the various faculties of my mind and body, together with the different talents which the providence of God has blessed me with.

"2. I will endeavor to remember that a strict and constant self-denial is a principal element of the Christian character; hence, without reference to my own will or inclination, I will consent to be governed by God's revealed truth and the inward illumination of His Holy Spirit.

• "To particularize some points of duty:

"Finding that I can not habitually use tobacco with a clear conscience, I will resolve to abstain from it altogether.

"I will endeavor to be more prompt and energetic in the discharge of all my duties.

"Teaching, as I do, the advantage and efficiency of prayer, I will myself seek to commune more frequently and intimately with God.

"In my intercourse with society, I will endeavor to be more spiritual in my conversation, keeping in view constantly the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

"I will study the spirit and character of my Saviour, and labor to possess all the mind which was in Christ Jesus my Lord.

"I will frequently give this covenant a prayerful perusal.

"Now, how can I conform to this standard unless assisted by the blessed Spirit? Feebler than a bruised reed, I shall certainly fail unless helped from above. Oh, Eternal Father, for the alone sake of the Saviour, give me the Holy Spirit to strengthen me with might in my inner man, that I may be able

to glorify Thee in my body and spirit, which I this day consecrate to Thee."

As joints to stalks, condensing their substance and giving firmness for the support of further growth; as knots in the threads, binding them into unity and strength as hither and thither they cross each other in weaving the fisher's net, so the covenants of good men gather up their otherwise scattered resources, and compact them into the higher forms of spiritual efficiency.

I give in his own words the account of his restoration to this great scriptural blessing :\*

"Oh, how many precious years I wasted in quibbling and debating respecting the great differences, not seeing that I was antagonizing a doctrine which must be spiritually discerned, and the tendency of which is to bring people nearer God. Meanwhile I had foolishly fallen into the habit of using tobacco, an indulgence which, while it afforded, palatably, gratification, at the same time seemed to satisfy both my nervous and social nature. Years elapsed. When I would confront the obligation of entire consecration, the sacrifice of my foolish habit would be presented as a test of obedience; I would consent. Light, strength, and blessing were the result. Afterward temptation would be presented. I would listen to suggestions like this: 'This is one of the good things of God; your religion does not require a course of asceticism; this indulgence is not specifically forbidden in the New Testament; some good people whom you know are addicted to this practice,' thus seeking to quiet an uneasy conscience. I would draw back into the old habit again. After a while I began to see that the indulgence at best was *doubtful for me*, and that I was giving my carnality rather than my Christian experience the benefit of the doubt. It could not harm me to give it up, while to persist in the practice was costing me too much in my religious enjoyment.

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\* Substantially as published in "The Guide to Holiness," New York.



“I found that after all my objections to sanctification as a distinct work of grace, there was nevertheless a conscious lack in my own religious experience—it was not strong, round, full, abiding. I frequently asked myself, ‘What is that I need and desire in comparison with what I have and profess?’ I looked at the three steps insisted upon by the friends of holiness, namely: ‘First, entire consecration; second, acceptance of Jesus moment by moment as a perfect Saviour; third, a meek and definite profession of the grace received,’ and I said ‘these are scriptural and reasonable duties.’

“The remembrance of my experience in Newtown supplied an overwhelming confirmation of all this, and at the same time a powerful stimulant in the direction of duty. What then? ‘I will cast aside all preconceived theories, doubtful indulgences, and culpable unbelief, and retrace my steps.’ Alas! that I should have wandered from the light at all, and afterward wasted so many years in vacillating between self and God. Can I ever forgive myself? Oh, what bitter, bitter memories! The acknowledgment I make is constrained by candor and a concern for others. It is the greatest humiliation of my life. If I had the ear of those who have entered into the clearer light of Christian purity, I would beseech and charge them with a brother’s interest and earnestness that they be warned by my folly. Oh, let such consent to die, if it were possible, ten deaths before they willfully depart from the path of holiness; for, if they retrace their steps, there will still be the remembrance of original purity tarnished, and that will prove a drop of bitterness in the cup of their sweetest comfort.

“Eternal praise to my long-suffering Lord, nearly ten years have elapsed since, as the pastor of Green Street Church in the city of Philadelphia, I again carefully and fully dedicated my all to God, the consecration of course including the doubtful indulgence. I said, ‘I will try to abstain for Christ’s sake; I trust I would do any thing for His sake, and certainly I can consent

to this self-denial that Jesus may be glorified.' I again accepted Christ as my Saviour from all sin, realized the witness of the same Spirit, and since then have been walking in the light as God is in the light, realizing that experimental doctrine of the fellowship and communion with saints, and humbly and gratefully testify that the blood of Jesus cleanseth me from all sin. 'As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him;' that is, as I understand, 'Maintain the same attitude before God you assumed when you accepted Christ as your all-sufficient Saviour.' I received Him in a spirit of entire consecration, implicit faith, and humble confession. The constant repetition of these three steps, I find, enables me to walk in Him. I can not afford for a single moment ever to remove my offering, to fail in looking unto Jesus, or to part with the spirit of confession.

"Thus I have honestly unfolded some personal experience in connection with the higher life; the recital humbles me in the dust, as it calls up the memory of years of vacillating and unsatisfactory religious life, but it also fills me with the profoundest gratitude for that abounding grace which not only bore with me, but brought me to see again my privilege in the Gospel, and now for ten years has been preserving me in the experience and blessing, and in the profession of this great grace. Precious reader, I now offer you the testimony; but mark, before it meets your eye it has been carefully placed upon the Altar that sanctifieth the gift, and an earnest prayer offered that it may be blessed to your spiritual profit. As you lay down this humble article, will you not, for your own sake and for the Church's sake, resolve to be entirely and eternally the Lord's? God help and bless you."

The candor, directness, and fervor which pervade this statement must commend it to every one. The "Tobacco Test" was for himself alone; the use of tobacco was in *his* way, in the full consecration which he sought to make to God; he

did not pretend to raise it as a question for any one else. With him whatsoever is not of faith is sin; what he could not do conscientiously, he could not do at all; but he would have others to think and act for themselves in doubtful matters, believing that every man should be fully persuaded in his own mind. Mr. Cookman, in the presentation of the Christian life, was the farthest removed from a narrow and censorious spirit; he never raised artificial conditions; was not given to the specifying of isolated acts either of self-denial or performance, but rather inculcated a broad, deep, thorough devotion, under whose enlightened impulse he was sure the new-born, or the wholly sanctified soul, would adjust itself to the divine requirements. It was of little consequence to him whether a brother accepted literally his methods or opinions on minor points of personal habit, so he had the root of holiness, and showed in his life its essential fruits. Here was a point which aided not a little to give him influence over all classes of minds.

Nothing can possibly exceed the emphasis with which our friend was henceforth committed to the doctrine of "perfect love." "Heart purity"—a favorite expression with him—was from this time to the close of his life the distinctive theme of his ministry; not, however, to the exclusion of other topics, but as comprehending all phases of Christian truth, penetrating and vivifying them with its light. It absorbed his best thoughts; it was the burden of his ablest sermons; it was that which was best in him as a man; his whole being was permeated with its unction; at home or abroad, in the pulpit or the social circle, in the study or by the sea-shore, at the altar of prayer or by the sick-bed, the instinct of his soul, the atmosphere of his life, was "Holiness to the Lord."

In connection with his preaching talents, his skill as an administrator of Church affairs, his aptitude with the Sunday-school, and his engaging manners, this rebaptism with the Spirit of power at Green Street was most opportune. It fully equip-

ped him as a good soldier of Christ for the arduous and eventful campaign which lay before him. What a pity it is that the details of a pastorate so replete with incident and instruction are almost wholly lost for the want of any proper record. The words spoken, the deeds done, are bearing fruit in souls, and their only transcript is the holy and happy lives they helped to form.

The revival spoken of began during the first winter (1857-8) of Mr. Cookman's ministry at Green Street. I extract a few entries from his pocket-diary as indicative of the progress of the work for January and February :

"*January 1, 1858.*—The first day of a new year. Oh, that it may prove the best day of my life ! Our watch-night was solemn and profitable. Delivered an address this afternoon at a Sabbath-school anniversary.

"*January 3.*—Preached in the morning on 'Having a mind to work.' Eight joined—four probation, four certificate. Made a Sabbath-school address in the afternoon. Preached at night on 'The loss of the soul.' A solemn meeting ; fourteen at the altar ; two professed conversion. To God be all the glory !

"*January 4.*—Greatly exhausted to-day. Attended a funeral. Twenty at the altar. Brother Coombe preached for me—'Work out,' etc. Two young men converted. Praise the Lord, O my soul !

"*January 5.*—Spent most of the day in the court-room, to which I had been summoned as a witness. Brother Coombe preached a powerful sermon from 'Pure and undefiled religion.' Seventeen or eighteen at the altar, twelve of whom professed conversion.

"*January 6.*—Wasted a good part of the day at court. Led a large class. Called on Mr. and Mrs. R——. Preached at night from 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' Sixteen at the altar ; three professed conversion.

"*January 7.*—Trial still pending. Led a large class. Brother Coombe preached—'If only we have hope.' Twelve at the altar ; three converted.

"*January 8.*—Wasted a good deal of time at the court-room. Brother Milby preached at night ; only two forward. O Lord, revive Thy work !

"*January 9.*—Visited court-room in the morning ; attended Old Folks' concert in the afternoon ; spent the evening in my study—not very well.

"*Sunday, January 10.*—Preached, with unusual liberty, on the subject of entire self-consecration. Administered the sacrament in the afternoon.

Fourteen joined the Church on probation, two by certificate. Brother Coombe preached at night; five at the altar; one converted. A good day.

"*January 11.*—Attended preachers' meeting; spent a good part of the day in the court-room. Brother Dunham preached very acceptably at night from 'One thing is needful,' etc. Five at the altar; one blessed. Letter from Trenton.

"*January 13.*—Brother Coombe preached; seven or eight forward; two converted.

"*January 14.*—Brother R. Humphries preached; eight or nine at the altar; two converted.

"*January 15.*—Brother Jennings preached; ten at the altar; two converted.

"*January 16.*—God has given me my first daughter. Oh, how multiplied are Heaven's mercies!

"*January 17.*—Preached with considerable liberty on the 'Horrible pit,' etc. Heard Dr. Stockton in the afternoon. Preached again at night on the solemn subject of 'Death.' Twelve at the altar; one converted. Glory to God!

"*January 18.*—Dr. Cook preached for me at night; fourteen at the altar; four converted.

"*January 19.*—Lectured in Trenton, N. J.; a pleasant visit. Dr. Cook preached for me; twelve at the altar.

"*January 20.*—Returned from Trenton; wrote letters to —; love-feast at night; a precious season; ten or twelve at the altar; one or two conversions.

"*January 21.*—Preparing material for a charity sermon. Led a large class. Brother J. Thomson preached for me at night—a capital discourse. Twelve or eighteen at the altar; one converted.

"*January 22.*—Wrote to B. F. J., L. W. K., E. M. H. Called on Helen P., W. G. S., and Captain S. Dr. Alday preached an excellent sermon from 'God be merciful,' etc. Twelve or thirteen at the altar.

"*January 21.*—Received a letter from Washington.

"*January 24.*—Preached in the morning on the duty of systematic beneficence; collection \$200. In the evening on 'Ho! every one that thirsteth,' twenty at the altar—a number of young men; one converted. To God be all the glory.

"*January 26.*—Went to market. Accomplished little in my study. Visited. Brother Curtis preached from 'Come unto me,' etc.; sixteen at the altar; four converted. Glory be to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

"*January 27.*—Preached at night from 'I have a message,' etc. One of the best meetings we have had ; fifteen or eighteen forward for prayers ; four or five blessed.

"*January 28.*—Very sick, one of my bilious attacks, with cold—under the care of the physician. Brother J. Thomson preached ; two or three converted.

"*January 29.*—Considerably better to-day, but greatly prostrated. Brother Fernly preached.

"*January 30.*—Nothing special. Far from being well.

"*January 31.*—Preached in the morning from 'Ye call me Lord and Master,' etc. John preached for me at night. A most solemn and interesting occasion ; eight or ten forward ; one blessed."

I give a few extracts for the month of February :

"*February 6.*—Started for Washington ; spent an hour or two in Baltimore ; reached our place of destination about five in the afternoon ; cordially received.

"*February 7.*—Preached the dedication sermon of Waugh Chapel ; considerable liberty. John preached in the afternoon ; Brother Dashiell in the evening ; upward of \$1500 raised. A good day.

"*February 8.*—Visited the Capitol, Smithsonian, etc. Heard a most exciting discussion in the Senate, and saw many friends. Lectured at night in the Foundry Church.

"*February 9.*—Returned home ; all well. Heard of Bishop Waugh's death. Patterson preached at night ; four blessed.

"*February 12.*—Eighteen at the altar.

"*February 14.*—Preached a missionary sermon in the morning—'What think ye of Christ ?' A good day.

"*February 15.*—Preachers' meeting ; general class ; twenty-five at the altar ; four or five converted.

"*February 16.*—Lectured in the Kensington Church in behalf of the Soup Society. Brother Seys preached at night ; three or four blessed.

"*February 17.*—Fifteen at the altar ; seven converted.

"*February 21.*—A triumphant day. Brother Hagany and Bishop Janes both preached admirably. \$1500 will probably be our missionary contribution.

"*February 22.*—Preachers' meeting ; dined at mother's ; good meeting at night ; eight at the altar ; one or two converted.

"*February 23.*—Wrote to S. Thomas ; attended Helen P.'s funeral ; was present at a meeting of the Board of Managers of the Tract Society."

Here this fragmentary diary closes. I present it as showing not only the progress of the revival, but also the busy life of the young city pastor. Religious services night after night, with all the taxing cares of a great awakening ; special services in the city and abroad, in lectures for feeble societies and dedicatory sermons for new churches. Elastic as was his physical frame, he is seen sometimes almost sinking under sickness, yet he scarcely stops his arduous labors, but gets well "in the harness." In the midst of these engrossing parochial cares he was touching the religious community at all points, was well-nigh ubiquitous in all city evangelical movements. Alfred Cookman was then, as always, a man of sheer hard work and of all work. He shunned no task however severe or forbidding.

I have at hand a report of one of his sermons preached during this great revival. Its insertion is in point, as tending to illustrate the style of his extemporaneous discourses, and the character of those thrilling home-thrust appeals by which he roused the consciences of his hearers :

*" 'Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee.'*

"These words, contained in St. Luke's Gospel, twelfth chapter and twentieth verse, constitute the subject of a sermon preached last Sabbath evening in the Methodist Church, Green Street, below Eleventh, by the pastor, Rev. Alfred Cookman.

"Mr. Cookman is among the youngest members of the ministry of Philadelphia, and so too among the most promising of their number. His genius seems to be eagle-winged, soaring aloof from either notes or manuscript, and pouring itself out in an easy-flowing stream of eloquence, as sublime in its flights as it is forcible in argument.

"The popular appreciation of this promising young preacher is well expressed in the immense audiences which usually throng the church in which he is stationed. On the present occasion the house was literally crowded. In attempting a synopsis of his able discourse, however, we shall endeavor rather to preserve the chain of his argument than to give a faithful transcript on paper of his style of oratory. \* \* \*

"The speaker here announced that the special point of inquiry to which he desired to call the attention of his hearers was,

‘IN WHAT DID THIS MAN’S FOLLY CONSIST.’

“‘The most degrading epithet to be found in the vocabulary of language had been applied to the subject referred to in the parable.

“‘Such an expression (“thou fool”), coming from the source it did, must have had sufficient reason to sustain it. But here arose the difficulty. The great principle intended to be taught by this parable the reasoning of the *world* was not prepared to receive. Here, indeed, was the issue. The judgment of God was arrayed against the judgment of unconverted man.

“‘To proceed, however, with the investigation into the folly of this rich owner of certain lands, we should probably be told, *first*—in vindication of his course—that he had been a *rich man*; and it was an undisputable fact that *riches covered a multitude of sins*! He knew, from the fact that rich men were almost universally lauded for their wisdom, that the process of fastening the charge of folly upon so distinguished a one of their number was no idle undertaking. Again, it would be plead in his behalf that he had been industrious and persevering, and had, as a consequence, reaped an abundant harvest as his reward; but the question here arose, “Do enterprise and wisdom, in all cases, constitute synonymous terms?” He thought not. Moreover, he would probably be accounted a wise man because he had *taken thought*, within himself, as to “what he should do.”

“‘Yes, he had taken thought, and the conclusion of his thoughts had been that he would build new barns, and on announcing this resolution he did not doubt but that he had been regarded as the very wisest man in all that region. But, again, the world would give him credit for acting *wisely*, in that he had resolved to enjoy himself with the good things he had accumulated all the rest of his days—for having taken a resolution, probably, of associating with him in his enjoyments a few select boon companions, who should revel with him in the delight he was then picturing to his soul.’

“‘Here the speaker saw pictured before his imagination the phantom of this prince reclining upon his silken couch at the dead hour of night, revolving in his mind the glorious future that awaited him. This delineation was at once artistic, eloquent, and thrilling. ‘It was at the dead hour of night: the laborers of his fields were soundly slumbering in other apartments of his splendid dwelling; but sleep on her airy pinions came not to woo his wakeful soul to regions of repose. No, no—his mind was too much engaged in counting over the vastness of his wealth; picturing before his excited vision the full-grown proportions of his newly conceived barns; devising the magnificent entertainments with which he meant to regale his admiring friends. So his soul was wandering into the treacherous regions of the undiscovered future, counting up the years of pleasure yet to come, when lo! suddenly as



the lightning's flash, a voice aroused him—a voice from a quarter least expected and most dreaded thundered in his ear the terrible doom—"THIS NIGHT!—*thy soul shall be required of thee!*"

"Never had Belshazzar been more terrified when the miraculous hand had written his doom upon the wall of his banqueting-chamber than had this rich man been at this midnight announcement. Never had Saul of Tarsus been more awe-struck when at the gates of Damascus he had been stricken sightless from his horse by a light from heaven, than had this man been on hearing his unlooked-for doom at this silent hour of the night. And well it might be so. His transition from the regions of his vision into the vestibule of eternity, in a single instant, and the certainty that before the rosy dawn of morn he should appear in the presence of a sin-judging Jehovah, were enough to have wrung from his lips the burning confession—"Tis true, I am a FOOL indeed!"

"But he would ask again, Wherein did his folly most particularly appear?"

"His answer to this would be, first, "*Because he had forgotten the claims of God!*" He had undertaken to arrange for himself a train of future happiness—had begun the work of hewing out for himself "broken cisterns that could hold no water"—had lost sight of the *living* pleasures of the future—was indeed basking in pleasures to some extent of which God does not wish to deprive his children; but the matter which pre-eminently stamped him as a fool was *that he had forgotten the Author of all his mercies.*

"When he had retired at night, good angels had long watched around his couch, but they heard no voice of thankfulness offered to their Father in Heaven. Others had mourned in penitence over their transgressions, but he had no tears to shed over his sins; others had plead for favors from the Divine Hand, but he had no prayer to offer; others had prayed for light to see the truth, but he had no such desire, for "he loved darkness rather than light, because his deeds were evil;" and from all this it was that the appellation of "fool" had been justly applied to him.

"But his folly was apparent, in the *second place*, because *he had forgotten the claims of his soul.*

"He had said, "Soul, take thine ease," and herein had been committed his capital mistake. What an insult to the soul was this! to undertake to satisfy the future longings of the soul by offering it a species of gratification that would be equally tempting to a brute!

"*"A fool!"* exclaims the objector, with perfect astonishment, "and did he not assiduously employ his thinking faculties? did he not ask within himself what he should do?" Yes, he admitted that he had asked this question;

and had it been in his (the speaker's) province to reply, he should have answered him, "feed the hungry and clothe the naked;" but his inquiry had not been what he should do *to be saved*, but what he should do for his body. All his inquiries had been concerning matters confined to this world, entirely forgetting the capacities and duration of the soul.' Here the speaker inserted an emphatic pause, and then continued, that he 'hoped all his hearers would duly consider the value of an immortal soul—and withal consider well the uncertain character of its earthly pilgrimage. Poised, as it were, upon a little point of time, with heaven above, hell beneath, and eternity beyond, requiring but the slightest vibration of Jehovah's breath to blow it away forever!

"To neglect this, no matter what might be our earthly achievements, we should gain nothing. "For what shall it profit a man (he prayed to God that this inquiry might sink deep into our hearts) if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

"But again: He had not only forgotten the claims of the soul, but also the *claims of death*. "Soul, thou hast laid up for *many years*," had been his declaration. And what a declaration this for a being whose breath was in his nostrils! It was well to bear in mind that of all known uncertainties, *life* was the most uncertain. Wealth, by means of strong walls and iron chests, might be safely secured; reputation, by preserving a strict correctness in all our walks and actions, might be retained; but see! how is it with human life? Mark yonder railroad train flying along the iron way with lightning speed—there is a sudden crash! It was the work of an instant; and now we may pass around among the dead, the dying, and the wounded of that mass of living, happy beings but a moment before! Yes, even to-day the realization of a scene like this had been echoed through our streets, and his hearers had doubtless heard of it.

"Die we must, be our circumstances whatever they may. We could not tell what would become of us, yet heaven or hell *must* be our destiny.

"Death had come to the rich man in the text, and at the dead hour of night laid his skeleton hand upon him, and thundered into his ears, "This night thy soul shall be required!" Then probably the first prayer had been wrung from those ungrateful lips, as he implored the fell messenger to spare him but till morning, that he might take leave of his family, or that he might execute his will, or, above all, that he might have if it were but an hour to make his peace with God. But no! the decree of the avenger had gone forth, and was inexorable in its demands. Now was the time—now he must die!

"Oh! how great had been the folly of this man—and yet there were

many of us quite as foolish as he: like fools we were living, and, like the arch infidel Voltaire, when we come to die it would be to "take a leap in the dark."

"But *lastly*: He had not only forgotten the claims of God, of his soul, and of death, but he had forgotten the claims of judgment. The evidences of Scripture were most explicit that "what a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Another rule was, that in proportion as we had received it would be required of us in the end. And in view of this, he would ask of the soul that had never been washed in the laver of regeneration—that had never responded to the noble impulses of a god-like charity, but whose whole existence had been devoted to the circumscribed limits of self-aggrandizement—of what value was it all? for in the hour of death all would have to be given up. And then that awful future! where, instead of drinking of the pure, delightful waters that flow from beneath the Father's throne, the lost soul must drink the bitter cup of the Father's wrath, even to its dregs; and, instead of basking amid the melodies of heavenly anthems, must forever dwell amid the desponding echoes of the groans of the tormented."

"The above sermon was an extemporaneous effort entirely, and elicited the most marked attention throughout its delivery."

The services of Mr. Cookman, at the dedication of Waugh Chapel, referred to in his diary, produced at Washington the impression which the advent of a "Cookman" was adapted to make in the national capital. A correspondent of one of our *Advocates* wrote of the occasion:

"I will allude to but one more point, and that is the dedication of Waugh Chapel last Sabbath. The services were extremely interesting. The sermons in the morning and afternoon were preached by the Revs. Alfred Cookman and John Emory Cookman, both sons of the late lamented George Cookman, who was lost on the ill-fated *President*. Both of these young men partake in a remarkable degree of the spirit and eloquence which characterized their father, especially as seen in his little volume of published speeches and sermons. The sermon in the morning was a beautiful exposition of the reasons why the apostle 'gloried in the Cross,' in which the youthful speaker held an overflowing audience, among whom were many members of

Congress and judges of the Supreme Court, in almost breathless attention for more than an hour. In the afternoon there was another great crowd to hear John Emory Cookman, who is, I learn, only nineteen years of age, and who has been a member of the Church but one year. Both of these young men are destined ere long, if their lives are spared, to rank among the most popular pulpit orators in our country."

Among the conversions with which God honored the ministry of Mr. Cookman during this period was that of his brother George, who, though next oldest to himself, had never before professed saving faith in Christ. On the first Sabbath evening of January, 1859, Mr. Cookman preached a most solemn and earnest sermon on the word "Now" to an immense congregation, and at its close invited penitents to the altar. He was feeling that night an especial solicitude for the conversion of his brother. The brother was seated in the rear of the choir (front) gallery, and, though the obstacles were apparently great, he deliberately arose, descended to the lower floor, and came forward to the altar and was converted. Nothing could exceed the joy of the pastor at this result, in which the brother who had been the companion of his boyhood was given to him in the fellowship of Jesus. The two became inseparable workers for the Master—George rivaling in the ranks of the laity the zeal and usefulness of Alfred in the ranks of the ministry. If Alfred's ministry at Green Street had done nothing more than to give to Methodism and to Christianity at large in Philadelphia, George Cookman, as an example of piety and earnest work, it would have been enough. His career was destined to be short, but full of good fruits, and such as only few young laymen in America have lived.

As evincing the manifold character of Mr. Cookman's ministry at this time, his adaptation to all classes, the attractiveness of his singularly pure and persuasive influence, there was a young Friend taken into the Church by him who has since filled

no small place in the public estimation. This thoughtful, ardent young woman found in Mr. Cookman's spirit and instructions what her nature needed. She came out from the Society of Friends, and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. She showed a genuine piety, an inquiring temper, and promise of marked usefulness. What her precise relations to the Christian Church may be at present, I do not know; but there is not a loyal heart in all America that has not beaten responsively to the truthful, brave, and eloquent words which she afterward uttered in the nation's darkest trials. Her scathing rebukes of treason and her searching exposures of wrong, her animated, cheerful eulogies of liberty, heroism, and the flag, have roused to hatred of violence and to love of right even where the arguments of men had failed. I refer to Miss Annie E. Dickinson. The tribute which she has kindly written to the memory of him who was for so brief a time her pastor abundantly attests the depth of her attachment for him, and proves that her heart must be in sympathy with the great truths which it was his single joy to advance.

To the Rev. John E. Cookman :

"It is not an easy task you mark me. \* \* \* Years have gone by since I sat down by your brother, looked into a face that warmed like the sun, and listened to a voice that called me away from all things poor and mean and earthly, as a strain of celestial music might call.

"Long years full of strife and care and toil—yet face and voice seem and sound as clear as though they shone and spoke but yesterday.

"A love of humanity wide as humanity, a charity inexhaustible, an earnestness that stirred the most careless, a hungering and thirsting after righteousness—not for its rewards—a tireless effort in season and out of season, with tender, yet powerful touch to mould and fashion others into the likeness of the Master; a longing so boundless to *be* like his Master, as to wear through flesh and blood full early, and carry the sanctified soul to know Him 'face to face.'

"This was Alfred Cookman.

"Sad hearts out of count has he left behind; eyes will grow dim and voices choked for years to come, when they think of or speak his name.

For he was one of those rare souls so exalted as to breathe the atmosphere of heaven, yet so gently human as to draw love and tenderness from whoso approached him.

"So his life seems to me, and, so seeming, I would that my pen were gifted with some of his subtle power to show it forth to others.

"As it is, I speak from my heart."

Only one letter of Mr. Cookman of this particular period has come into my possession. It was written on his birthday to his wife at her parental home in Columbia, and breathes the child-like, playful spirit, the earnest, constant zeal which so uniformly and beautifully blended in his daily life. I can imagine the air of conscious dignity with which the presents of the little brothers were accepted, as though they had conferred upon their papa a real benefaction.

To his wife, Mrs. Annie E. Cookman :

"PHILADELPHIA, Tuesday afternoon, January 4, 1859.

"Certainly you will expect me to act the correspondent on my *birthday*. Thirty-one years ago I struck Columbia in my descent to this sorrow-smitten planet. From that starting-point I have prosecuted an eventful and, in most respects, a delightful pilgrimage. To-day I erect my Ebenezer again, and gratefully acknowledge 'hitherto hath the Lord helped me.' Our meeting is progressing with considerable interest and success. Last night, despite the snow-storm, the body of the church was quite well filled. Brother E. J. Way preached an excellent sermon. Ten presented themselves for prayers, and four were happily converted. George is proceeding most prosperously in his Christian course; he says he is perfectly satisfied. Saidie tells us that last night he went to bed, joyously singing, 'I will believe, I now believe, that Jesus died for me.' Nothing, she estimates, could exceed his tenderness and kindness to her. He was always faithful and affectionate, but now, she states, there is an expression and exhibition of this feeling she has never seen before. It will inaugurate a new epoch in their domestic history. Saidie is resolved that George shall not go to heaven without her. Her mind, I think, is made up to walk with him in the narrow way. She talks about nothing else, and weeps almost constantly. Oh, that her night may soon end in joyous day! The children are both well. Just now they came into my study and placed on my table their *porte-monnaies*, saying, 'Papa, this is your birthday present from us.' Dear little fellows, they did it

of their own accord, and in perfect good faith. I put their present in my pocket, and thanked them very sincerely. They will not be separated. George asks a great many questions about his sister Annie; wants to know if she will live after the doctor cuts her with his lancet. When I speak of mamma's return, their little eyes dance with delight."

I close the Green Street pastorate with a brief testimony from J. F. Bird, M.D., a member of the charge:

"He got behind the 'Cross' on the occasion of his first sermon, and *there* remained until his term, which continued for two years, was ended. The young people crowded to hear him, and very many became *earnest* members of the Church through his instrumentality, and are now doing good service in 'every good word and work.' Among them was his brother George. At one of the most interesting services ever held in this or any other church, this dearly beloved brother presented himself at the altar, and very soon was happily converted. In writing to an absent friend, giving an account of this conversion, he said, 'I shout with my pen and with my soul over the auspicious event.' He had labored for it and prayed for it incessantly by night and by day, and therefore could not but 'shout' when his desire was realized.

"Mr. Cookman always regarded this appointment as one of the happiest, as it was one of the most successful, of his ministerial career. He labored for the *good* of the *people*. He lost sight of self. This was the secret of his success. An intelligent member of the Church was asked by a member of the Conference what was 'the secret of Cookman's success.' The answer was, 'His evident desire to do the people good.'"

## CHAPTER XIII.

### THE UNION CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA.—SLAVERY AGITATION.— CHRISTIAN UNION.

THE next turn of the itinerant wheel did not take Mr. Cookman far. He was appointed by Bishop Scott to the Union Church on Fourth Street, in March, 1859. The Union charge is the next oldest to St. George's in the city, and is surrounded by business houses, which have from year to year pressed out the resident population to remoter sections. It is still a strong station; but at the time Mr. Cookman was sent to it, before other charges had been created, either wholly or partially from its membership, it was a powerful organization, including some of the most influential families of Methodism. Many of these families came from a distance, preferring to continue in connection with a Church with which they had been so long in close fellowship to joining those which were nearer their residences. The Union was consequently not so favorably located for a large congregation; but its proximity to the hotels and its free seats were advantageous conditions, and Mr. Cookman's popularity began immediately to produce an increased attendance upon the public services.

As indicative of the high estimate in which Mr. Cookman's ministry was held, I make a brief extract from a letter of Mr. Thomas L. Mason, a well-known member of Union Church. Writing to the Rev. John E. Cookman, he says:

"When Alfred was in Pittsburgh he promised me that, if the appointing power would agree to it, he would be pleased to be pastor of Union. When Conference met, Green Street (being heavily in debt) insisted upon having him, and to accommodate our Green Street friends we gave in, with the un-



derstanding that at the expiration of two years he would be sent to Union—and so he was. Our parsonage was in Eighth Street, above Race, but, to accommodate his little children, we removed it to 224 North Fifth Street, and partially refurnished it. He was received at Union with open arms and open hearts. Our congregations were good, our finances much improved. He was particularly successful with the young."

Mr. Cookman had the happiness of having many choice friends in the congregation. There were those under his ministry who had long held him in the highest personal esteem. His whole nature found scope for its gratification. Around genial hearth-stones his sanctified affections enjoyed agreeable companionship, while in the Church his hands were strengthened by judicious counsels and tender sympathies. The Rev. Andrew Longacre, laid aside by feeble health from the active work of the ministry, was a member of the congregation, and ministered, by his calm and gentle friendship, to his comfort and usefulness. His brother George, in the first flush of spiritual grace, with uncommon endowments of speech and song, was at his elbow. His own mother, also, was one of his flock. She who had so often fed him with the Word of life, must now be fed by him. But now, as before and since, she gave, if possible, more than she received. To lean on the support of a wisdom which, in his opinion, had become almost oracular, a faith which knew no abatement, a zeal which no waters could quench, was to him no slight privilege, a rich blessing in so arduous a position. There, too, was the sanctuary in the private house of Mr. J. B. Longacre, on Spring Garden Street, which the pastor could regard as very much his own, and to which, as to a quiet haven, he habitually resorted. The eldest daughter of Mr. Longacre, Mrs. John Keen, upon the decease of her devout mother, still maintained the meetings for "holiness" which her mother had founded. These meetings had been from their commencement a gathering-point for the friends of the higher Christian life in Philadelphia. Here Mr. Cookman's heart was

often refreshed; and issuing thence with deeper, calmer thoughts of God, he entered upon the recurring duties of his large and laborious pastorate with perceptibly increased vigor and success.

More than ever before, the earnest pastor, thus beloved at home, was in demand abroad. Whether announced in his own city or in any other place, on special occasions, he was sure to be greeted by a throng of people. His preaching at times was with overwhelming effect. The Rev. Mr. Longacre gives an account of the popular influence of a sermon preached about this time at Penn's Grove camp-meeting in New Jersey:

"I recall a sermon he preached at a camp-meeting in New Jersey, on the text 'Thy will be done.' The collection preceded the sermon, and it left the congregation a good deal unsettled. But at the first sound of his voice all was hushed into attention. As he preached and passed on into the appeal of his discourse, the whole vast throng was bowed in tears. People wept aloud, the preachers crowding the stand, and the passers-by on the edge of the circle. Near me was seated a traveling preacher of the Hicksite Friends. He had been restless at first, but gradually seemed subdued by the power of the preacher, until at the conclusion he stood up and cried with a loud voice, as if yielding to the constraining influence of the Spirit, 'We have heard the Gospel preached in the demonstration of the Spirit and with power.' We went to the tables right after the service, but for many minutes those at our table could not eat. We sat looking at each other, and weeping tears that could not be controlled."

During the autumn of 1859, Mr. Cookman was invited to Baltimore to preach at Monument Street Church. This was one of the churches comprised in the Baltimore City Station when his father was one of the pastors. His coming was a signal for an outpouring of his devoted friends and the public generally. He wrote to his wife:

"I seize a moment to drop you a line. These Baltimore friends are so incessant in their attentions and so abundant in their kindness that I have scarce opportunity to think of any thing but what is passing around me.

"Yesterday I preached to overflowing congregations. Although the North Baltimore friends had concluded *not* to advertise the service, fearing

an unmanageable crowd, yet both morning and evening *hundreds* went away who could not be accommodated with standing-room.

"I preached 'Power' in the morning, and the 'New Birth' at night; in the afternoon made three addresses; spent a sleepless night. To-day am hardly able to stagger about. This morning at ten we had a *most precious meeting* for an hour and a half. My soul is kept in perfect peace. Oh, the strong consolation there is in Christ. How delightful to labor when we realize the presence of the Master.

"Invitations for dinner and tea are more numerous than I can possibly accept. The friends vie with each other in their kind attentions. Look out for me on Wednesday. Love to all friends. Many kisses for the children. Tell them to be very good."

To his wife, Mrs. Annie E. Cookman :

"I am sure you will not object to receiving a few lines from a lonely husband. An exceedingly pleasant ride on the cars brought us to Philadelphia about five P.M. On my way to the parsonage I, of course, dropped in at the Race Street homestead. Mother and Mary were making their arrangements to sup with Mrs. W. W. Cookman. All were very well, and full of inquiries respecting yourself and the children.

"Arriving at the 'Fifth Street house,' I was welcomed by Lizzie P—, who had every thing very clean and comfortable. Taking up my letters and papers, I felt such a sense of loneliness as can not be described. I remembered this would not do, and as I bowed my knee in prayer sweetly realized that I was in the best of company. My compassionate Saviour came quickly to my relief, and the room was transformed into the audience-chamber of Deity. Oh, how unutterably sweet—how indescribably valuable is the religion of the Lord Jesus. My appreciation and enjoyment of its sacred influences are increasing day by day.

"My letters were from Rev. H. Slicer, inclosing an invitation and a free pass to the Shrewsbury camp-meeting; and another from the Rev. Mr. Thomas, urging me to serve him on the occasion of a church dedication. The former I will avail myself of; the latter I must decline."

The Shrewsbury camp-meeting was a favorite resort of Mr. Cookman. He loved to meet the Baltimore Methodists whenever he could, and nowhere were his labors more acceptable and useful than among them at their camp-meetings. He will be heard of again at Shrewsbury.

To his wife, Mrs. Annie E. Cookman :

“PHILADELPHIA, Saturday morning.

“Home again ! In view of my general class, and for the sake of a good night's rest, I left the camp-ground\* yesterday afternoon. It has been a memorable week. The recollection just now fills my soul with gratitude and joy. Our company was select and entirely congenial. Brother Y—— was sweeter than ever. It seems to me that, as he approaches his rest, he is becoming increasingly heavenly.

“Mother and Mary were with me in our little tent, which was arranged tastefully. No pains were spared in contributing to our comfort. The preaching was capital ; the success unusual. I occupied the stand yesterday morning, and held forth the Word of life before an immense multitude. The meetings held at the Union tent were powerful and precious beyond all description. On Thursday morning we had a season which some of us will think and talk about when we stand on Canaan's happy shore. Oh, how often and how much I longed for my darling wife. The fullness for which you pant would, I think, have been realized amid those scenes. However, Christ is an omnipresent Saviour, and just as gracious at Columbia as at Penn's Grove. More particulars respecting the meeting I will furnish when we meet.

“I will try to be with you next week. My Sabbath work will oblige me, I fear, to return the latter part of the week, as I have arranged to exchange with N. Heston on the fourth Sabbath of August, and to be out of my pulpit two Sabbaths successively would hardly do. If, however, I return to the city, it will be to leave for Columbia the following Monday again, *en route* for Shrewsbury. I am very well *soul* and *body*. My heart is full of love, and my future full of light. God is with me, and proves himself a sufficient portion. I have three services to-morrow.”

Mr. Cookman's pastoral term at Union, happy as it was in most of its aspects, was not wholly without trials. It covered a period which was one of great anxiety and perplexity both in the State and the Church. The “irrepressible conflict” between slavery and freedom was fast approaching a crisis. The elements of dissatisfaction and discord, which had been rising and gathering, had assumed such intensity as to forebode the most violent and destructive storm. The whole nation trem-

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\* Penn's Grove, New Jersey.

bled with uncontrollable agitation ; every ecclesiastical organization, and more especially the Methodist Episcopal Church, was shaking to its centre with a controversy, the sharpness of which had precipitated the most equable men into bitter hostility. Hatred was fast taking the place of love ; distrust of confidence ; lifetime friends were becoming alienated ; section was arraying itself against section ; Northern opinion was divided ; men stood side by side on 'Change, or sat side by side in the pew, or ate together, members of the same family, who differed almost wholly in their judgment of the causes and the cure of national and ecclesiastical troubles.

It was one of those times of decision in which Almighty God brings nations and individuals to the bar of judgment, and to which destiny holds them with an inexorable grasp. The wisest men stood bewildered in counsel ; Conservatives were wringing their hands in despair or clinching their fists in fury ; and even Radicals, while not doubting the correctness of their principles, were alarmed at the consequences which their success threatened to entail. "Conscience," exclaimed Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, in the United States Senate, "has done this. Sir, there is no hope of reconciliation or of the Union ; the *conscience* of the North is against us." It was so ; the enlightened conscience of the free states had reached a point when it could no longer tolerate the extension of slavery.

This conscience, however, was not yet prepared to demand its abolition in the slave states. Very few of the most pronounced anti-slavery men felt themselves to be a party to the wrong where it was protected by municipal law, and was beyond any possible constitutional process except by the concurrence of those who framed these municipal laws. Yet there were men in the Church whose conscience compelled them to exert themselves to abate slavery in the Church by requiring all slaveholding members to emancipate their slaves. They wished thus to leaven the State through the Church ; to assist

in creating, by a clear testimony and by such ecclesiastic pressure as they could command, a public sentiment in favor of "abolition." There were differences of opinion as to the power of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to expel members for slaveholding, and also as to the expediency of exercising this power if it existed. The differences of opinion were not confined to any locality of the Church, though those who held an opinion adverse to such a power were massed mostly along the "Border Conferences," embracing the Baltimore, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, West Virginia, and Missouri Conferences, with contiguous Conferences lying north.

The whole question has since been consigned by the "logic of events" to a dead past, and is of interest chiefly as one of the teachings of history. No issues which have since transpired can throw the shadow of a suspicion on the honesty of the men who, in so great a debate, stood and acted apart. Time has healed—no, victory, in the happiest fruits of righteousness and peace, has healed the breaches of the angry strife. But it was an ordeal for many souls which can not soon be forgotten—a fiery trial—and though it only consumed the straw, that the gold might shine with the richer splendor, it was not the less painful in its endurance.

Mr. Cookman was among those who believed that a law should be enacted excluding slaveholders from the Church. When measures were introduced to effect this change, through what was deemed the proper constitutional process, he gave them his prompt and uniform support by voting for them. He stood almost alone in his Conference. There was a small knot of six or seven men out of about three hundred, and these were most of them men of advanced years. He was young, bright, popular, the idol of his brethren and of the people; his early education had been in the South; his principal friends were either slaveholders or their sympathizers; his opinions seemed to impugn the piety of people who nourished him in infancy and

youth ; his vote seemed to fasten sin on those who were regarded as above reproach ; the measure he supported must exclude many from the Church whom he hoped to meet in heaven, and even apparently blot with a stain the memory of many who had died in the faith. But Alfred Cookman felt that he must do his duty. He would not follow his principles to all their logical results ; he could only see principles, and to them he must stand.

He did not question the piety and virtue of thousands hitherto and then involved in slaveholding ; but of two evils he must accept the least. The opportunity had come for him to act, and it was for him to say whether he should spare the feelings of friends, or do what he could to liberate five millions of slaves ; whether he should pander to a spirit of oppression, even though softened by religion, or strike a blow for universal freedom. He rose to the crisis of the hour. Cutting away from all social and personal entanglements, the man stood forth in an act of moral heroism seldom surpassed in the history of Methodism. When the resolutions initiating the change were pending before his Conference, he got down on his knees in the pew, and, bathed in tears, poured out his soul to God for light and strength, and arose and voted "*Aye!*" Here was the iron in his nature.

Let those who think Alfred Cookman was not a man of the truest and highest courage mark this. His forbearance for the weaknesses of men, his indisposition to insist upon points in which men differed with him, his great charity, which folded in its arms earnest souls and dropped out of sight their accidental disagreements, has been construed into a want of courage. Mr. Cookman never wasted his force on men of straw, but when real giants were to be crushed, he had the power to do it.

In keeping with the vote thus given was the sermon he preached in his own church about the same period, called by one his "*grand, grand anti-slavery sermon,*" from *Isaiah* viii., 12, 13. As might be expected, some of his nearest friends and

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principal supporters were wounded, and did not hesitate to express their displeasure. His only answer to all such was, "I can afford to forgive them." Under an oppressive sense of the responsibility which a declaration of his views would involve, he had made the sermon on his knees. He delivered it with the greatest fearlessness, and at the same time with an evident sincerity and tenderness, which convinced all who heard him that nothing short of the most thorough loyalty to the great Master animated his soul. At the close of the service his face shone with a spiritual light that showed how closely he had communed with the Holy Spirit, and how triumphantly the Spirit had vindicated him in the discharge of a most painful duty.

The session of the General Conference at Buffalo, New York, in May, 1860, was looked forward to with great anxiety by all the friends of the Church. It proved the most perilous since that of 1844. Mr. Cookman, in common with hundreds of ministers and laymen, felt he must see the body and witness its proceedings. Two letters afford a glimpse into his feelings.

To his wife :

"BUFFALO, Thursday evening.

"A long, long ride brought us to this western city about noon to-day. Although tedious and tiresome, still I greatly enjoyed it. Wonderful natural scenery, congenial company, with an unusual degree of divine communion, made it one of the most delightful journeys of my life. The details I must reserve until my return home. We are quartered at the *Western Hotel*, a neat, quiet, and comfortable house.

"After dinner and making our toilet, we concluded to take the half-past two o'clock train for Niagara Falls. Thither we proceeded, to find the dignitaries of the Church reveling amid those world-renowned scenes. I met with hosts of friends from the North and South, and East and West, who were really lavish in their expressions of pleasure at meeting me. Our company were perfectly charmed. My only regret—and sincerely it marred my happiness—was that my precious Annie could not unite in this extraordinary treat. My soul ought to have been filled with Niagara, but your absence would not permit this. At seven o'clock we returned to Buffalo.

"Great excitement obtains among all concerned in General Conference proceedings. To-morrow it is expected the great battle will commence.



The anti-slavery column stands strong and united. May God rule and over-rule !”

To his wife :

“ BUFFALO, May 23, 1860.

\*\*\* “ Sabbath was a glorious day. Bishop Ames in the morning, Bishop Simpson in the afternoon, and Dr. Porter at night ; altogether a day of days. Monday it was gloomy and rainy. Yesterday we spent at Niagara. Oh, what a glorious visit it was ! Part of the time I was with Mr. Guinness, which contributed not a little to the enjoyment of the day. Particulars must be reserved until we meet. To-day the slavery battle began. The excitement is intense. Coombe led off, followed by Moody and Norval Wilson. The Baltimoreans were here in large numbers. They are intensely excited. The general rule will not be changed, but there will be a secession on the border. I judge we are on perilous times, but the Lord reigneth. If I were not conscientious before God, the pressure of friends might move me from my position, but, while I would not grieve them, I must and will cling to truth and right. My spiritual enjoyment in Buffalo has been unusual. Love fills my heart ; love for God and for all around. Oh, I feel during every succeeding hour that I am at peace with Heaven, and prepared, if it should be the Master’s will, to quit these stormy scenes and rest with angels and the glorified.”

We have before seen the fatherly interest Mr. Cookman manifested when his youngest brother was first meditating the ministry, now that this brother was fairly engaged in the direct and indirect duties which it brought, he could not do otherwise than afford him all possible counsel and sympathy. His brother John had only recently become a pastor at New Brunswick, New Jersey, and was to visit Philadelphia, to address the Young Men’s Christian Association.

To the Rev. John E. Cookman :

“ PHILADELPHIA, November 16, 1860.

“ Perhaps you are ready to chide my delay in replying to your letter. The reason of my procrastination was that the information you desired had to be sought, and could not be had until after a meeting of the managers of the Young Men’s Christian Association. That meeting was held on Wednesday evening, when it was resolved to postpone the anniversary until the evening of the 3d of December, when it will come off at Concert Hall.

Had it been held before, some one of the churches must have been the place selected. A very general and earnest wish was expressed that you might be one of the speakers. Dr. Tyng has declined. Mr. Crowell and Dr. Newton are spoken of as your colleagues. Respecting a theme, I scarcely know what to say. The relation of Christian young men to the times, or the responsibility and duties in the present crisis of our national and world's history, would, I think, be suitable.

"The value of a powerful illustration can scarcely be estimated. I say this as an offset to the claim you set up, '*Pay what thou owest.*' I could do this in a fortnight of sermons, and, retaining '*the figure,*' be decidedly the gainer. You know, however, that I love to act generously. No one is more interested for your success than myself. It is my triumph to see you triumph. '*Cookman*' is the name which, with the blessing of God, I desire to float aloft, commanding the respect, confidence, and affection of the world. Family pride (I trust it is sanctified) has a wonderful development in my experience. My beloved brother, never do any thing or say any thing that would lower that name one iota in public estimation. If we desire our name to remain unimpeached and be increasingly honored, then, struggling up above the infected atmosphere of this lower world, let us stand in the clear, broad, beautiful sunlight of God's immediate presence. Men will recognize us as Christ's; honor our principles; respect our character, and yield to our influence. John, take my advice, and be satisfied with nothing less than a heart constantly filled with God. It is a grand idea and a grander experience to be co-workers with God; infinite wisdom and illimitable power enlisted in our behalf. It helps us to think, to study, to pray, to preach, and to labor; it becomes the guarantee of inevitable and glorious success. I mean all I write, and hope that you will immediately put this matter to an experimental test.

"But to the illustration. I have been turning it over in my thoughts, and can not call up any thing that I think could be rendered more effective than Tennyson's '*Charge of the Light Brigade*' at Balaklava. I inclose a copy, which you will please preserve, and return when you have done with it. Its application to this light brigade of young soldiers for Jesus, charging upon the flanked batteries of hell, would, I think, be very thrilling. *Forward the light brigade*; ring the changes just here.

"How are dear mother and Mary? We have many inquiries respecting their welfare. Will you not all come to spend the Christmas holidays in Philadelphia? I think you might excuse Mary *at once*, and allow her Philadelphia friends a chance. The festival at Sansom Street Hall passed off splendidly. Dr. Kennaday is preaching this week at Trinity. No special

interest is reported. The services are held in the lecture-room. The Tuesday-afternoon meeting is largely attended, and I think increasingly interesting. The children's class is getting on nicely under the auspices of M—— W——. She is vindicating the wisdom of our selection. Take good care of yourself, or rather commit yourself, body, soul, and all, to Christ, and let *Him* take care of you."

It could hardly be otherwise than that Mr. Cookman's reputation should attract attention in New York City. We accordingly find him invited thither on different occasions to speak at public meetings, and to represent the Philadelphia churches. In the autumn of 1860 he spoke at the anniversary of "Five Points' Mission," under the care of the ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The anniversary was held at the Academy of Music. The audience was very large and enthusiastic. "His address," a gentleman recently said, "I can never forget. The three principal figures—the child and the Bible, the woman and her diamond ring, the sinking ship—are as vivid as if I had heard them only yesterday." A visit to New York, in company with Mr. George H. Stuart and other prominent Philadelphia gentlemen, to wait on a delegation of Irish Christians, was noticed by him in the following pleasant way to his wife :

"METROPOLITAN HOTEL, NEW YORK, Friday morning.

"How very gladly do I seize a moment this morning to add to your pleasure, for I am sure you will be delighted to hear from your *itinerant* husband. In company with Revs. Westbrook, Taylor, Wylie, and other gentlemen, I enjoyed exceedingly the journey from Philadelphia to New York. Mr. Taylor and I, seated side by side, engaged in a decidedly religious conversation which proved a very feast to my soul. Indeed, ever since my departure, my blessed Father has kept my mind in perfect peace. I very sweetly realize that He is around and within and all about me. Oh, the unutterable joy of uninterrupted communion with God ! Mr. Stuart was at the hotel to give us one of his warm-hearted welcomes. After some ablutions, etc., we proceeded to the Cooper Institute. Owing to the storm, there was no crowd, but a very respectable attendance—certainly one thousand people. The exercises throughout were unusually spirited and interesting.

"The honored representatives of Ireland acquitted themselves very creditably. Your unworthy husband was called out. I said what was in my heart at the moment, and was kindly received. I feel it such a privilege to plead, under such circumstances, the promise, 'Lo, I am with you *always*,' and find the presence of my Master on the platform as in the pulpit. About midnight we went to Mr. Stuart's room, and enjoyed together a season of prayer; after which, at peace with God and men, I placed my head on the pillow, and was soon lost in the oblivion of sweet sleep. This morning I am very well, and feel my heart overflowing with love to God. At noon I must be present in the Fulton Street prayer-meeting. My friends around are very polite and affectionate. How much I love, and how grateful I feel for Christian companions. How are my darling wife and precious children this morning? I need not tell you how dear you all are to me. Many kisses for the boys and little sister. Tell them that pa hopes they will be very obedient to ma, and very kind to each other."

This letter suggests a marked feature in the character and ministry of Mr. Cookman during these four years, which has not yet been as distinctly noticed as its importance and the full representation of his career require. I refer to his position as a representative man before the evangelical churches of Philadelphia. While there never was a more pronounced Methodist than he, I doubt if there ever was one freer from bigotry. He dwelt in a high serene atmosphere of love, whence he could look down and see all the bounds and fences of sectarianism dissolve in the unbroken sweep of Christian unity. He loved all Christ's followers, and was ready at all times to act with them in those undenominational movements which contemplate the glory of His kingdom in the salvation of men. The churches were not slow to perceive his mind and to feel the kindle of his spirit; and hence both for his piety and his talents he became by common consent the leading man of his Methodist brethren as a mover in those stirring days of revival to which allusion has already been made. He was closely identified with such men as the Rev. Messrs. Newton, Brainard, Taylor, Dudley Tyng, Reuben Jeffrey, and Mr. George H. Stuart, in promoting the general work of religion. A young man, he was in full

sympathy with the Young Men's Christian Association, as an institution providentially raised up to afford not only a beautiful expression of Christian union, but also a common ground for the most effective labors of all believers for the temporal and spiritual welfare of young men. He and other pastors were glad to labor under the leadership of the layman whose name is a synonym for pure philanthropy throughout our country. The work accomplished in those early days of the Association of Philadelphia can hardly be too highly estimated, and has only been paralleled by that of the Christian Commission during the late civil war.

Mr. Stuart has not ceased to value the services and to cherish the memory of his friend Mr. Cookman. He has kindly furnished to the Rev. John E. Cookman a brief estimate of his character and work as they impressed him at this time :

"I have been privileged to know many faithful and gifted servants of Christ, and to know them a second time in the perusal of their biographies—Dr. Murray, of Elizabeth ; Drs. Edgar and Cooke, of Ireland ; and Dr. Hamilton, of London, among them—but I can say that a more fervent and devoted minister of the Cross than *Alfred Cookman* I never knew. In him the old fire that burned in the hearts of Whitefield and Summerfield glowed with all the fervor of the first and Pentecostal days of Methodism ; and no one could come within the sphere of his influence without feeling that he was one for whom to live was Christ, and to die was gain.

"Mr. Cookman's coming to this city was not long previous to the beginning of the great revival of 1857 and 1858. Through its precious scenes of awakening, of conversion, he labored with all the fervor of his nature and of grace. When I recall him in connection with that time of revival, his name seems voluntarily to associate itself with that of the eloquent and devoted young servant of Christ, the sorely lamented *Dudley Tyng*. Mr. Cookman preached several times with great unction and power in the Union Tabernacle, which was moved about the city during that time. A single sermon of his on the prophet's vision of the valley of dry bones was blessed to the conversion of several persons, one of whom heard him as she stood without the tent.

"Never shall I forget a 'noonday prayer-meeting' held during the revival, at which your brother presided. With deep feeling he asked for special

prayer for the only son of his father who remained still without an interest in the great salvation. You may judge with what fervor that request was responded to. A few days later word came that the prayer had been heard and answered, and that *George Cookman* was rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God. He too has gone to the upper sanctuary; but permit me to recall the fact that when, by age, I was called to lay down the office of President of our Young Men's Christian Association, its duties devolved upon this beloved brother, who was chosen as my successor. Very precious still to me is the memory of *George Cookman*, the second President of the Young Men's Christian Association.

"Alfred Cookman was one of those who represented to the mind of the Christian public the brotherly *unity* of the *whole* Church of Christ. His large-hearted catholicity, and his unqualified love for all who held by the Head, were what gave him his place among us. On any public occasion when the churches of Christ were called on to unite in utterance or in action, he was always expected, and never in vain.

"How faithful he was to all the interests committed to him inside his own denomination, you can testify of. I can say that he was one of those who made us feel that all these divisions were but regiments and brigades of the *one great army*, the hosts of the living God.

"My own personal relation to him was one of pleasure and of profit always. He was a brother in sympathy, a friend in help.

"When a sentence,\* at which our Christian world has not ceased to wonder, cut me off from my place in the Reformed Presbyterian General Synod, he was among the first to give utterance to his Christian confidence and sympathy, in a letter which I highly prize as a memento of our Christian friendship."

Here also are words of the same import to Mr. John E. Cookman, from the distinguished and venerated Rev. Richard Newton, D.D., rector of the Church of the Epiphany, Philadelphia :

"No argument in support of the reality and truth of the religion of the Gospel is worth half so much as that which is furnished by the example of one so blameless, so consistent, so holy as was your loved and lamented brother.

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\* Mr. Stuart was suspended by the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church for singing such hymns as "Rock of Ages," and communing with Christians like Alfred Cookman.

"I had not the pleasure of an intimate personal acquaintance with him. But during the years of his ministry in Philadelphia we often met together in various union services. On different platforms, where those who love the cause of Jesus take sweet fellowship together, we often stood side by side in striving to promote the honor of our Master's name and the welfare of His blood-bought Church. And now that he is gone, the recollection of those seasons is very dear and precious to me. His large-hearted love for the friends of Jesus; the singleness of his aims; the earnestness of his zeal; the fervency of his spirit; the untiring devotion, the unction and power that appeared in all he did and said, were the points about him that always most strikingly impressed those who came in contact with him. These were the broad seals upon his character that stamped him as one of God's own anointed ministers, and won for him a warm place in the hearts of all to whom the living image of Jesus is dearer than every thing else. I feel that it was a privilege to have known him here on earth, and I look forward with kindling hope to the higher privilege of meeting him in that bright world to which he has gone, and where the union of Christ's people, whom he so loved to cultivate here, will be perfected forever.

"May God graciously send down on all the ministers of Jesus still on earth a double portion of that sweet spirit of purity, humility, zeal, and charity, which shone so brightly and so beautifully in all the life and character of your lamented brother."

Mr. Cookman completed his term at Union Church in the spring of 1861. His pastorate here, though not marked by a general and continuous revival, was nevertheless eminently useful. Mr. Mason, before quoted from, says:

"His Saturday-afternoon meetings were a grand success. All the Sunday-school children loved him very much. We had constant accessions to the Church in small numbers. We held two protracted meetings in the body of the church. There was no great excitement, but many were converted and added to the Church, and some remain to this day. During one of these meetings a lady boarding at the *Union Hotel* said to some friends, 'Let's go over to the Methodist meeting and have some fun.' They occupied the fourth pew on the south middle aisle. *Before the fun commenced*, Alfred asked all that felt they were sinners to stand up, and, to the great amazement of her friends, Mrs. C. stood up. She was converted, was a useful member of Union Church many years, and removing to Camden, New Jersey, took a card and joined the Church there, where she lets her light shine still.

“Alfred’s life, his character, and influence in the city was all for good. He was one of the purest ministers we ever had—the true minister in the market, the home, and in the house of God. One of his most effective sermons was preached on the steps of my house—to my son, Thomas T. Mason, Jr., who was just leaving for the army of the Cumberland. Taking him by the hand, he said, ‘Tom, take God with you, and all will be well.’ After the terrible battle of Stone River, in Tennessee, my son was taken down with typhoid fever, and just before he died he turned to his comrade, Thomas C. Moore, and said, ‘Tom, I am taking God with me.’”



## CHAPTER XIV.

REMOVAL TO NEW YORK.—MINISTRY AT THE CENTRAL CHURCH.  
—PATRIOTISM AND THE CIVIL WAR.

SUCH was the influence which Mr. Cookman had gained at Philadelphia, both in and out of the Methodist Church, that it would have seemed wise to retain him in that city. There came now a demand for his removal to New York. His fame as a preacher had become so wide-spread as to cause his services to be in request in many places, both for special occasions and for the pastorate. There is an ever-working law by which the grand centre of finance, trade, population, lays its claims to the intellectual and religious power of the whole country, and makes it tributary to its importance. The Methodist Church is no exception to the rule ; and it could not be expected that Mr. Cookman would be an exception among ministers. The frequent changes of the itinerant system offer facilities of transfer from one city to another such as no other Church possesses. He had been four years in Philadelphia, and he must make a change—"Why not go to New York?" The application of the Central Church in New York was successful, and Mr. Cookman was accordingly transferred to the New York Conference in May, 1861, and stationed at that Church. The same society, which had originally worshiped on Vestry Street, had secured the services of the father, and he was to have entered upon his duties with them immediately upon his return from Europe ; they were now equally fortunate to be able to command the son in their new and more commanding position on Seventh Avenue.

Some letters, written while he was in process of transfer and

settlement, are indicative of the mingled sense of responsibility and pleasure with which he contemplated the change.

To his wife :

“NEW YORK, Wednesday morning, May 8, 1861.

“I am just now in receipt of your affectionate and truly welcome letter. Your allusions to the precious children occasioned a feeling of homesickness. If I had only the ‘wishing-cap,’ oh, how soon I would sit down in the midst of my little family group ! I trust, however, that I am in a providential path, for I try in all my ways to acknowledge God, and I think He is directing my steps. You ask how I like New York. My answer is—‘Very much. Every thing here is alive and in motion.’ The people are much more demonstrative than they are in Philadelphia. They feel, and do not hesitate to express or manifest their emotion. Yesterday afternoon John and I enjoyed a most charming ride in a carriage belonging to Brother S—. He kindly proffered it, and we drove about for two or three hours. It afforded us the opportunity of visiting a number of localities we have been anxious to see. I spent part of yesterday in the celebrated Dusseldorf gallery of paintings. I have never seen any that would compare with these.

“Last evening the stewards of Central called at Brother S.’s. They were very affectionate, expressed great pleasure in the prospect of my appointment, and an anxiety to have me settled at the earliest moment. They represent their parsonage as in very fine order, still they want to make some improvements. I will fill my pulpit (May 19th) Sabbath week, and after that turn my face toward Lancaster County, so that we may get here, say Friday of that week. I do not know how I can endure absence from my loved ones so long, but I live a day at a time, and try to keep the future out of my thoughts. This afternoon I proceed to Poughkeepsie, will remain there until Saturday, then return to New York, and, Providence permitting, preach to the soldiers in Union Square Sabbath afternoon at three o’clock. This is a very honorable and important appointment. You must not fail to pray for me. I had hoped to enjoy the meeting at Sister Lankford’s yesterday, but was prevented from getting there.”

To his wife :

“NEW YORK, Thursday, May, 1861.

“In view of some interesting anniversaries, I did not proceed to Poughkeepsie yesterday, as I originally proposed. This afternoon, however, the Lord willing, I shall turn my face toward the seat of the Conference. Nothing new has transpired in connection with my appointment. Yesterday I spent a half hour in the church itself. I was all alone—no, not alone, for

God was with me. Kneeling down, I asked my kind Heavenly Father to come with me to my new field of labor, and make the ensuing two years the best years of my life. The property is very tasteful and comfortable in all its arrangements and appliances. Last night I walked the streets of New York in company with Jesus. Do not be surprised. This was a precious realization, and my heart burned within me as I communed with my kind and sympathizing Redeemer. It was one of the evenings of my life. This morning I attend the anniversary of the American Bible Society. H. B. Ridgaway is one of the speakers. \* \* \* How are you all this bright May morning? Oh, that I could look in upon your sweet familiar faces."

To his wife :

"NEWARK, N. J., May 14, 1861.

"You must not think for a moment that you are forgotten. Never were you dearer to my heart than now ; indeed, I am sick to see my wife and children. The days drag their weary length along until I sit down in my domestic circle again. Last Thursday afternoon, in company with my friend Ridgaway, I started for Poughkeepsie, the seat of the New York Conference. The sail up the Hudson (seventy-five miles) was magnificent. The half had not been told me. It must be seen and enjoyed to be understood. Oh, how much I longed for your presence to make my joy complete ! It will be a delightful trip for us some day during the approaching summer. Poughkeepsie is a beautiful city. My home was with a family by the name of Van K——, members of the Dutch Reformed Church. They live in elegant style, and did every thing possible to promote our comfort. On Friday morning I was introduced to the New York Conference, a body of nearly three hundred members, fine-looking and intelligent. They were very cordial—came forward and assured me of a most hearty welcome. John is on the spot, solicitous respecting his reception into the Conference, of which there is some little doubt. The doubt grows out of the fact that the Conference is already crowded with men, and, as at Philadelphia, they talk of postponing the reception of young men until next spring. Ridgaway preached on Friday night. \* \* \*

"Saturday afternoon I returned to New York ; preached at Eighteenth Street on Sabbath morning, and in Union Square at three o'clock P. M. Had large audiences and great freedom. In the evening I crossed the East River and worshiped in Henry Ward Beecher's Church. It was a great treat ; a wonderful congregation, splendid singing, superior prayers, and a timely, pointed, practical, and popular sermon on camp-life. There is but one such man in this world. Instead of returning to Poughkeepsie yesterday I rambled about with Ridgaway, visiting the Book-room and office of

*The Methodist*, and gazing at the *Great Eastern*, which arrived on Saturday last. In the afternoon I accompanied him to Newark, and am spending a few hours at the palatial residence of my friend W——. It is only a stern sense of duty which detains me in this region, for, as I intimated before, I am restless to see my dearly beloved family. To-day I will write to James W—— to ship my goods. Probably they will reach New York by Saturday. I will have them stored at the parsonage ; will preach on Sabbath, and, if at all possible, start for Columbia either Monday or Tuesday. I have met quite a number of the Seventh Avenue friends. They are extremely cordial, expressing the greatest pleasure in the prospect of my appointment. They strike me as a sincere, warm-hearted congregation, with whom I can labor pleasantly and profitably. The S.'s are very kind."

These letters recall very vividly to my mind the interview to which Mr. Cookman refers. I had been invited to make one of the addresses at the anniversary of the American Bible Society, and I remember that no one greeted me more cordially at the close of the exercises than our friend. We planned—as I wished to visit the New York Conference then in session at Poughkeepsie—to go up the Hudson by steam-boat the same afternoon. Neither of us had seen the famous river, and so we anticipated much. It was our good luck to have a charming afternoon, and also to meet on board the Rev. A. K. Sanford, a member of the Conference, whose familiarity with the route greatly heightened our pleasure. It was one of those delightful occasions when all the senses were open. The first buds of green were tinting the landscape, lending great freshness to scenes which otherwise would have been remarkable only for fidelity and boldness of outline. Mr. Cookman, with that keen perception of the beautiful for which he was so remarkable, seemed quite ravished with the ever-shifting views, which in their rapid succession kept alive a perpetual feeling of surprise and admiration. At the Conference he was, as a transferred man, the object of interest, and a desire was generally expressed to hear him preach ; but, with instinctive modesty, he waived the request, and sent the committee for his unsuspecting companion.

Just so soon as Mr. Cookman got settled in his new home, which had been put in order for his family, he began to unfold those methods of usefulness in the observance of which he had been every where successful. He now found himself placed in a comparatively untried field. He was but one of hundreds of pastors of first-rate ability brought to the great centre from all parts of the country. The congregations of the Central Church were devout, refined, and intelligent, but not large and overflowing, such as he had been accustomed to. They thus lacked an important element of effective oratory in a popular preacher, and also the conditions so necessary to the extensive revivals which had so often attended his ministrations.

Mr. Cookman speedily adapted himself to the altered circumstances, went quietly to work, and, in the absence of all parade, addressed himself to the proper vocation of a faithful pastor. His diligence, zest, and wisdom soon began to be manifest in the growth of the congregation, in the deepening piety of the members, and in the general and harmonious advancement of all the institutions of the charge. The Sunday-school instantly felt his magical touch, and the young men came around him as if drawn by an irresistible spell; the whole people were warmed into an intenser glow by his benignant spirit.

The following letter to his wife, touching the prospective removal into the new home, will be appreciated by all Methodist ministers and their families. One must go and another come; the parsonage must be refitted for the incoming family. It is a hard time for sick children and invalid wives; but the wheels roll on, and around must go wives and children with the wheels. The Methodist Church is a militant Church, and not only the ministers, but their families, must be regarded as part of the army, and must feel it no hardship to be always ready at the appointed signal to break camp and march. The reference in this letter to the preacher's class suggests one of Mr. Cookman's strongest points. No man ever possessed greater facility

in the difficult and useful exercise of class-leading. The class of six soon grew to be a room full, and became a rallying ground in the work of the station.

To his wife :

“NEW YORK, Friday morning, May, 1861.

“I am in the midst of a vast population, and surrounded by many kind friends ; nevertheless, I suffer a sense of isolation. My precious family are absent, and none can serve as their substitutes. Were it not for the presence of my blessed Saviour, which has been a delightful and continued realization, I could scarcely have borne the deprivation I have been suffering. My Heavenly Father has been specially gracious to me within the last week or two ; accompanying me in my walks, visiting me in my night seasons, strengthening and blessing me in the society of friends, keeping my mind in perfect peace. Yesterday afternoon I entered on the duties of my pastorate by leading the preacher's class. It was very small, only six being present ; among the rest my hostess, Mrs. Skidmore. I cast myself on Christ, and enjoyed the service very much. After the class, I visited in company with Mrs. S. the parsonage. Rev. Mr. Hare kindly conducted me through the house. It is a very comfortable establishment. I think you will like it quite as well as any of your former homes. A detailed description I will reserve until we meet. The former pastor, Brother Hare, will not get out till next Monday. Then the trustees will commence vigorously the work of repair and improvement. They will paper some of the rooms, and paint the house throughout. This can not be finished next week. Hence I propose to get my pulpit supplied for the following Sabbath (the 26th of May), and bring on my family the latter part of the next week. I am so thoroughly homesick that I can not readily consent to remain here another week. My goods will probably arrive to-morrow ; but, as Brother Hare will not take up his bed and walk before next Monday, I may have to remain until Tuesday, that I may superintend the transfer of my boxes to our new home. In that case I will not see you before Tuesday evening or Wednesday next.

“John left this morning for Lennox, his appointment. He is in good spirits, and thinks he will be pleased. We shall hear more on his return next week. This evening is the occasion of our regular weekly prayer-meeting. I am looking forward to it with considerable interest. On Sabbath I expect to preach morning and evening. This is a prospective trial, but I shall look to and depend upon Him who has said, ‘I will never leave thee—no ! I will never forsake thee.’ Pray for me. If I should complete my arrangements we will spend the following Sabbath together quietly in Columbia. This will be for me a great treat after the excitement of the last fortnight.”

The first year of the pastorate at Central passed usefully and pleasantly, affording every indication that the new minister had taken a strong hold upon the affections of his people. It was the year of the outbreak of the rebellion ; and, perhaps, one of the most trying periods for all the ordinary methods of ministerial work which the American Church has known. It was a time when the pruning-hook was beaten into the spear, and the plowshare into the sword. The war spirit had possessed the populations ; the great masses had risen as one man for the vindication and safety of the Union ; and from one end of the land to the other the strange noise of drum and fife called the young men to arms, and the highways and streets were thronged with troops marching southward for battle. New York was in a ferment of excitement—her streets were drill-grounds, her public squares barracks, her Sabbaths fallen under the stern exigency of preparation for instant conflict.

Amid such scenes it was no wonder if the congregations of the churches were decimated, and the spirit of religious revival repressed. After the first blaze of patriotic fire had spent itself, and the people had become used to matter-of-fact war—found themselves humbled with disappointment, and settled down to the hard tug of persistent efforts—there came a reaction in the religious feeling, and an increased attendance of the multitudes upon public worship. Through this season of discouragement Mr. Cookman, like other faithful ministers, stood his ground, worked how, where, and when he could. We have seen that even before his settlement in New York he preached to the soldiers at Union Square. It was a stirring sermon, full of patriotism, but, if possible, fuller of Christ. That service was but the first of many that followed—sermons and speeches which helped to keep alive in the country both faith in God and faith in the Republic.

In New York as in Philadelphia we hear of him at the Union prayer-meetings. He who had borne such an active part in

the one city could not remain idle in the other. At the anniversary of the Fulton Street prayer-meeting he was heard to utter these clear and ringing words :

“It may not be uninteresting or inappropriate for me to state that while I lived in the city of Philadelphia I had the honor to be the pastor of the Church which stands upon the site of the ‘Old Academy,’ as it was designated, the favorite preaching-place of the illustrious Whitefield.

“In the lecture-room of that Church was organized the first noonday prayer-meeting for the city of Philadelphia. It was commenced by a young man who had resided in the city of New York, and who had frequently availed himself of the privileges of this Fulton Street noonday service. After his removal to Philadelphia, he felt that a similar meeting would be profitable in his own experience and for the community at large, and was resolved to assume the responsibility of its establishment. It is but proper to say that, in the first instance, the effort was feeble and unpromising ; and many times have I passed by the door of that lecture-room, and, glancing in when I ought to have gone in, observed three or four prostrate before God, importuning an outpouring of divine influence upon themselves and upon others. Those prayers, however, were effectual ; they reached the ear, and they influenced the heart of an almighty Saviour ; and before long the number attending the service in that lecture-room was very considerably increased. It was then resolved to remove to Jayne’s Hall, of which doubtless you have all heard quite frequently ; and after the removal to Jayne’s Hall the interest so rapidly extended that before the lapse of a week four thousand persons might have been seen associated together for the purpose of public prayer.

“If these humble efforts were followed by such special results in that case, what may we not hope for after the patient and the persistent prayers that have been going up from this Fulton Street meeting, and from similar services, during a succession



of years? I have the impression that when these terrible providences which are associated with our present war shall have mellowed the great national heart, the results of these prayers will appear in a mighty and unprecedented Pentecostal baptism, when there shall not be four thousand or forty thousand only, but millions prostrate beneath the mighty power of God. And oh! in the prospect of such an outpouring, may we not to-day linger in the midst of our great country, desolated not only by civil but spiritual rebellion, covered all over with moral death, and may we not imitate the example of the prophet, as with the voice of one man, and pray, 'Come, come from the four winds, O breath! and breathe upon these souls that they may live?'

"As an encouragement to prayer for individuals, will you excuse me if I introduce a passage from personal experience? I was the eldest of six children, five sons and one daughter. The mysterious hand of God's providence buried my precious father while I was still young in yon broad, deep ocean. My widowed mother—for whom I will even in this public way praise the Father of the fatherless—was greatly concerned, of course, for the salvation of all her children. Her prayers, which were importunate and constant, were heard in heaven, and soon they began to be answered, as one after the other of her sons was brought into the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Four years ago we were, as I trust, a united family in Christ, with one exception, and that exception was a beloved brother, a noble, affectionate young man, twenty-seven years of age. He had been my associate during life; we had played together as boys; we had slept in the same bed; we had attended the academy together; we had bowed at the same maternal knee, and had joined in repeating the petition, 'Our Father which art in heaven.'

"I can not tell this audience how I agonized for the salvation of that brother, and how anxious I was that we might be a united family in the Saviour in time, and then an undivided

household in paradise. Morning, noon, and night I brought this interest to a throne of heavenly grace ; and one day I rose in the Philadelphia noon prayer-meeting and asked them to pray for that brother. Oh, how they prayed ! I shall never forget their interest and earnestness, and if I am so happy as to reach the glory-land, I think I shall find out some of those Christians, and will thank them for their united and importunate prayers upon the occasion of that noonday service. Only a short time elapsed when that brother, who was unaware that united prayer had been offered in his behalf, was found prostrate penitently before God, and became a subject of regenerating grace. He joined the Church, and has subsequently come to be one of the most earnest, consistent young Christians I ever knew.

“Before I sit down, allow me to speak of a circumstance which transpired in the neighborhood of Boston. A few years since two gentlemen entered a car in that city *en route* for the interior, and, seated side by side, they very naturally fell into conversation, when it transpired that they were both traveling to the same place, and soon, to their mutual surprise, they discovered that they bore the same name. Then they ascertained that they were both going to see an elder brother, one whom they had not met for many, many years ; and then the almost overpowering truth burst upon them that they were literal, natural brothers, who in the providence of God had met in this most extraordinary way. They had been separated from early childhood, and now, after the lapse of thirty long years, they had been most surprisingly brought together. As I have been sitting here and listening to allusions about heaven, I have said in my heart, ‘That is my place of destination, and I hope, through grace, to stand triumphantly upon Caanan’s shining shore.’ And then, as you have used the term Christian, I have said inwardly, ‘That is pre-eminently my name.’ I am a Methodist Christian. I do not attach a very great deal of importance to the Methodist, but I would place very strong emphasis upon

the designation Christian. Just as my name is Alfred *Cookman*. I care not for the Alfred; I would just as soon it was George or Joseph or John, but I cling tenaciously to my family name. As you have made very touching and beautiful reference to Jesus, I can say he is my elder brother, and I hope after a while to be associated with him in heaven. It is a delightful truth that we are associated to-day, brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, hastening onward as rapidly as time can bear us,

“To the house of our Father above,  
The palace of angels and God.”

It could not have been otherwise than that Mr. Cookman would early make the acquaintance of the famous Sing-Sing camp-ground. To a beautiful grove, lying back of the village, many of the Methodists of New York and vicinity had long been accustomed to resort for their annual religious festival. Before the days of railroads, by sailing-vessel and steam-boat, thither the city folks made their way, and the farmers drove in from the adjacent country, that on this time-honored spot they might worship God. Whether this zealous friend of camp-meetings reported himself the first year of his residence in New York does not appear, but the second year he was there, mingling amid its devotions, enjoying its Christian fellowship, and preaching with his usual power and acceptability. Mrs. Cookman had gone with the children to spend the hot weather at the family retreat, her father's home in Columbia, Pennsylvania.

To his wife :

“NEW YORK, Saturday, August 30, 1862.

“Home from camp-meeting, tired enough. Went to bed this morning at one o'clock; at two disturbed by singing in the adjoining tent; at five, or even before, dressed myself and prepared for the homeward march. We have had a glorious week. Oh! I can never, never forget it. The camp has been only outside of heaven itself. Weather favorable. Friends attentive and affectionate. Meetings powerful and blessed. Arriving on the ground in time for afternoon preaching, heard a sermon from a Brother Littlewood on ‘Enduring hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ;’ in the

evening, a Brother Bates on the 'Conversion of St. Paul.' On Wednesday morning Dr. True preached about Moses. In the afternoon an old veteran of the Troy Conference discoursed on the subject of 'Holiness;' in the evening Brother D. Buck on 'Mercy and righteousness have met together,' etc. Thursday, Dr. Wentworth preached in his usual effective camp-meeting style on 'Christ crucified;' in the afternoon Brother Newman on 'Holiness'—an excellent sermon. In the evening Rev. H. Cox, of St. Louis, occupied the time in presenting his cause and taking a collection. Friday, Brother Pegg preached in the morning on 'This treasure in earthen vessels;' in the afternoon Brother Fox, of Forty-third Street, on 'I have a baptism to be baptized with, and I am straitened until it is accomplished;' and in the evening your poor unworthy husband on 'Redeeming the time.'

"Oh, how much oppressed I felt in view of my fearful responsibility! But, glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, divine strength was made perfect in my great weakness, and I think that never have I preached so much in demonstration of the Spirit. Sinners were smitten on the right hand and on the left. The altar and tents were occupied with penitents and praying Christians; many souls were converted. One gentleman of forty years of age was awakened and converted while I preached. Not unto me, not unto me, but unto my blessed, blessed Saviour shall be all the praise and glory, now and forever more.

"My own soul has been greatly refreshed and strengthened through the rich privileges I have been enjoying. I trust that I am more powerful to do for Christ than I have been. Glory to the Lamb!

"Mrs. S—— and Mrs. D—— occupied the same tent. They had one of the sweetest camp-meeting homes you ever saw. They were more than kind to me. There was nothing I needed that they did not immediately and cheerfully provide for me. How strange that I, one of the least of God's servants, should be the recipient of so many Christian attentions and kindnesses. As Mrs. S—— suggested in the cars this morning, we shall have something to talk about all the autumn approaching. She is better, I think, in health; and in her experience is bright and happy beyond precedent. Would you believe it, she almost avows herself now an abolitionist. When prayer was offered for the emancipation of the slaves, she would ring out her hearty 'Amen!' Glory to God! So much for the power of holiness.

"Arriving home this morning, I found your sweet, wife-like letters, which, you may be sure, I seized upon and devoured immediately. How glad I am that the well ones continue as usual, and the sick ones are no worse. The tidings respecting Bruner are decidedly encouraging. May God have

you all in His care and keeping ! I feel so much confidence in my Heavenly Father as to be persuaded that he will do exactly right."

The delight which Mr. Cookman found in his family is manifest in all his letters. Those who knew him most intimately will recall that he never seemed so perfectly happy as when in the bosom of his home. The letters which he wrote his children when absent on their summer vacations were full of sweetness. They did not lack good advice ; but were rather characterized for parental tenderness and familiarity. He could be a child among his children. Up to this time there had been no alloy in his domestic bliss—the children, his wife, and himself had been favored with uninterrupted health ; but now it pleased God to allow sickness to enter the circle. His eldest son and first-born, Bruner, was affected with a painful disease, which finally, after some years of suspense, terminated his life. A few letters of this date happily illustrate the feelings which animated his soul under the checkered dispensations of Providence. Happy in the sunshine, he was not despondent in the shade. The first touches of sorrow were borne with resignation, and served but to mellow his rapidly growing experience.

To his children :

"NEW YORK, June 21, 1862.

"This is Saturday night, when papa, you know, usually studies his sermons. Bruner is asleep, Will is asleep, little Beck Evans is asleep, mamma is getting ready for bed, and I am writing a letter to my dear George and precious Frank and sweet little sister Puss. Well, how have you been getting along this week ? I hope you have been very good, making as little noise as possible ; obeying all that aunt B—— or grandma has said, remembering your prayers every night and morning, asking your blessing, and behaving well at the table, and acting like little New York gentlemen. On Tuesday I watched you waving your hats and handkerchiefs and flags until I could see you no longer ; then I sat down until I reached Lancaster. There I waited an hour, and took another train of cars, and got to Philadelphia in time for tea, stayed at uncle George's all night, and the next day started for New York.

"When I got home little Prince danced for joy, he was so glad to see me. Then I started for Nyack, where I found mamma and Brune and Will and little baby sister. They were almost as much delighted as Prince, and

asked me a hundred questions about George and Frank and sister. I told mamma you were magnificent boys; that Frank did not cry; that sister was growing to be a large and lovely girl. We talk about you every day, and want the weeks to go by right fast until we shall all sit down together in Columbia. Thursday afternoon we returned from Mr. T.'s. Yesterday mamma and Brune had a long, pleasant ride in Mr. R.'s carriage. Brune drove nearly all the way. To-day mamma and Brune and Will and Betty and the baby went with Mr. P—— to the Central Park, and heard the music. It was splendid!

"Now I must close my letter. On Monday we have our Sabbath-school excursion. Next week, perhaps, I will write and tell you all about it. Be very good boys. We send kisses. George must kiss Frank and sister for me; Frank must kiss George and sister for mamma; sister must kiss George and Frank for Brune. Do not forget. Good-night."

To his daughter Annie, when a young child:

"MY DEAR, DARLING LITTLE PUSS,—This is *your* letter, written by your precious papa. Every day he thinks about you, and wants the time to come when he may take you in his arms again. If you were here to-night he would not be satisfied with one less than a dozen kisses. Your dear brother Bruner has been very sick. He often talks about his little pet sister in Columbia. You ought to see his dog. The dog's name is Prince—a happy little fellow that barks at Willie, and plays with Frank, and jumps up on George, and follows Brune wherever he goes. I know he would love you dearly; he could not help it. Every body loves my little darling Puss, but nobody better than her devoted papa. Be a very good girl; learn to jump rope; help grandma to water the flowers; mind every thing aunt B—— says to you; kiss Mozie and little Alfred for me; don't eat all the currants and gooseberries before I come, but keep ever so many for your dear papa. Would you not like me to send you a pretty picture-book? Keep a look-out, and some of these days Kate will find one in the post-office for Miss Annie Cookman. Won't that be nice? Now give me a good-bye kiss."

To his children:

"NEW YORK, June 24, 1862.

"MY DEAR GEORGE AND FRANK AND LITTLE SISTER,—We received George's letter this afternoon, and were glad to know that you are all well and enjoying yourselves. Be very good children, and in a few weeks you will see your dear mamma and Bruner and Willie and the baby. Did I not promise to tell you about the Sunday-school excursion? Well, yesterday

morning we rose early, got ready, and went down to the wharf, where we found a large number of the boys and girls, with their parents and teachers. At about eight o'clock we started, and sailed down the bay. It was a beautiful morning, the sun was shining brightly, the air was cool, the boat was large and comfortable. Bruney, Willie, baby, Betty, Julia, and mamma, with the little carriage, were all on board. Brune ate cakes and drank mineral water. About eleven o'clock we got to Biddle's Grove, on Staten Island. This was a beautiful place, with swings and tables and a great many nice things. We had an excellent dinner, some charming walks, a game of ball, and then we started for home, where we arrived in the evening about seven o'clock. It was one of the happiest days I ever spent. Now I have bad news to tell you. Little Prince is dead. He died to-day. Instead of getting better, as we hoped, he got worse, until he could not walk or stand, and then the poor little fellow died. Bruner sat down and took a good cry. Some persons think he was so pretty that he ought to be stuffed, like those animals you saw at Barnum's Museum. But this is not worth while. He will either be buried or thrown into the river. Your little brother Willie told me this afternoon he was going to take 'me da—da in the 'team-boat.' When he takes me, I reckon we will go to Columbia. Now remember to be very good; say no bad words; go with no bad boys; be kind to grandma and grandpa; obey all aunt B—— says, and do not get sick or hurt yourselves.

"Now I must give you a good-night kiss—one for George, one for Frank, and one for dear little sister Puss. Mamma says I must send ever so many for her, and Bruney for him, and Willie for him."

To his wife:

"HOME, Tuesday night, Seventh Avenue.

"I have just returned from meeting. The rain of course influenced our numbers, and yet I was gratified to see so many present. There were four at the altar. One or two of those who presented themselves as penitents last evening have since then experienced peace. With a *single* exception, we had every unconverted person in our congregation to-night forward for prayers. Personally, I have had a rather desolate day. When you are here it is home; when you are away it is a house. After bidding you good-bye, I returned through the fog to our noisy city, drew some funds, paid for my last barrel of potatoes, bought sister a locket, which I afterward filled with likenesses of '*Mamma and Papa*,' purchased Brune and Frank books, and returned home. The children were in the best of spirits, and delighted with their presents. After dinner a letter came from Columbia, acquainting us with the improving condition of mother. Had this letter reached the

parsonage before nine o'clock this morning, you would at least have been tempted to postpone your visit. About three o'clock the children had their anticipated party. I honored them with my presence. It was a gala time. After taking a glass of lemonade and enjoying a little chat, I went over to the Tuesday-afternoon meeting. It was not very large, but exceedingly profitable. Returned home, and had tea and prayer with the children. Mary devotes herself to them; she is very successful in interesting and entertaining them. Papa is unusually tender and affectionate. All his sympathies seem drawn out for the little darlings, usually so dependent upon their mother. The fact is, I am almost entirely at their mercy just now. They can do with me almost as they please, sister especially."

To his wife :

"SEVENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, Thursday eve, 1862.

"Another day is waning. With us it has been decidedly wintry. The ground is covered with snow, though the prospect now is that rain will soon dissolve this, leaving us a delightful condition of things in our streets. Nine faithful ones braved the storm, that they might enjoy together the afternoon meeting. It was a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Your dear little pets have been behaving themselves beautifully all day. This morning they turned their attention to the art of photographing. The magic lantern was the camera, Bruner the operator, and every body about the house patrons. I, of course, had my likeness taken. It was not flattering. They are all pretty well. George complains of headache this morning, and of course was permitted to remain at home. This suited Frank perfectly. Sister is very affectionate and good. Will steadily increases in sweetness. If you could have seen him this afternoon after he was dressed, you would have covered his fat little cheeks with kisses. They are very, very dear children. I have returned from our evening meeting. Owing to the storm, which is very violent to-night, the number present was small. The service, however, was decidedly profitable. We have your telegram, but no letter as yet; perhaps to-morrow will bring this coveted treasure. We talk a great deal about you, and *think* more. Twelve years of married life have made you a part of myself, which must be near, or I feel bereft and incomplete. I think I love God more for the gift of my faithful and devoted wife. Next to His Son, the blessed Christ, this is my greatest mercy. This is such letter-writing as used to characterize our honey-moon—but is it not honey-moon still, only the moon has been steadily increasing in magnitude and glory. The children are most probably kissing you in their dreams. Give Becky Evans (the babe) an extra kiss."



To his brother, Mr. George Cookman, of Philadelphia :

“NEW YORK, Tuesday afternoon.

“In accordance with your suggestion, I have just written the long-promised letter to J—— C——. I trust that it may comfort and profit him in the midst of his protracted affliction. The illness of our precious Bruner has so engrossed my time and thoughts and feelings, that friendly correspondence has been almost entirely out of the question. Since our return to New York he has been steadily declining. He is now confined to his room, and spends a good part of his time in a reclining posture, propped up with pillows. The action of his heart evidently gets worse and worse. This produces a violent cough, which is terribly racking to his system, and an exceedingly delicate stomach, which refuses almost every thing. Most of the time he is the victim of nausea. All this, with a swollen state of his system and frequent spells of oppression, will give you some idea of the sufferings of this precious boy. Oh ! it is hard thus to see him suffer. Although my dearly beloved son, our first-born, and the object of cherished hopes in connection with the future, yet I could consent to close his eyes in death, if he might escape all that suffocation and weakness and pain which now seem to make his life a burden to himself. Our sympathies are terribly tasked. We want to do something, and suffer under a sense of our inability. It is the trial of my life. Still, my dear George, I will not murmur. My kind Heavenly Father can not err or be unkind. If He slay me or mine, still I will trust in Him. You will be rejoiced to know that the grace of God is so supporting during the season of sorrow. To lose Bruner is like taking away a part of my heart, but, oh ! Christ has had, does have, and shall have all—all for time and eternity. My precious wife bears up better than you could expect. Like myself, she is in the furnace, but sweetly realizes the presence of the faithful Jesus.”

To his sister-in-law, Miss Rebecca Bruner :

“NEW YORK, September 17, 1862.

“Annie is so much engrossed with the duties of a sick-room that I have consented to undertake the department of correspondence. You will regret to learn that Bruner is manifestly declining. Ever since his return to New York he has been steadily running down. Arriving on Friday afternoon, the following Sabbath found him considerably swollen, which is regarded as a most discouraging symptom of his disease. This swelling not only continues, but seems gradually to increase. This is occasioned by the feeble circulation, as we judge from the fact that his extremities have to be frequently and violently rubbed. The action of his heart is evidently worse.

A little distance from his body you can hear an audible sound. His heart pressing upon his lungs, he suffers with a racking and distressing cough—pressing also upon his stomach, he is the subject of almost constant nausea. All medicine and even the plainest food seem to disagree with him. Associate all these symptoms with frequent spells of oppression, when he really lives with great effort, and you have some idea of the condition and sufferings of this precious boy. The doctor said to me yesterday afternoon that he thought we would have to make up our minds to lose our cherished son. It is a trial—a terrible trial—the trial of our life, for Bruner is not only our first-born, the object of cherished hopes in connection with the future, but, as you know, a boy of principle and integrity; his influence with his little brothers has been most wholesome. I feel as if Providence was about to transfer a part of my heart to heaven, and yet I must not murmur. It is my Heavenly Father; let Him do as seemeth Him good. Annie, of course, is carrying a heavy burden. She was proud of Bruner, and you are aware of his special love for her. At the present he can scarcely bear her out of his sight. The prospect and probability of losing him stirs all the depths of her sensitive and affectionate heart. God is gracious to her. I think she is leaning more heavily than ever before on the Almighty arm.

“Little Rebecca Evans changes very much from time to time—now better and then not so well—but on the whole is, I think, gradually improving. The other children are very well and exceedingly good. George and Frank go regularly to school. Sister and Will play very nicely together. George is very tender and affectionate with Bruner. He sits at his side, and seems to be full of interest and sympathy. Your little pet talks often about aunt Beckie. You are a queen in her heart. How long Bruner will last we can not tell. If he runs down as rapidly in the future as he has during the last ten days, he will soon be at rest. Pray for us, and write as often as you can.”

The following letter to Mr. Thomas W. Price, of Philadelphia, on the loss of an infant child, named for Mrs. Cookman, evinces the facility and heartiness with which Mr. Cookman could enter into the feelings of his friends. No wonder such a nature should have touched depths and drawn to it affections which lie quite unmoved by ordinary men:

“COLUMBIA, August 5, 1862.

“Glancing through the columns of yesterday’s *Inquirer*, my eye fell on a notice of the death of your dear little Annie Cookman. It shocked us not a little, for when we last saw her she was the very picture of health. How

often is it the case that our cherished ones, whose promise for long life is the most flattering, are the first to be smitten by death's relentless hand !

"You will believe me when I assure you that this bereavement has awakened in our hearts the liveliest sympathy and sorrow.

"We recognized in this little namesake a living and breathing bond, to bind even more closely that special affection which subsists between our families. We remember the interest and love with which you regarded this last-born, we are reminded of the unusual sweetness and loveliness of the babe herself, and then feel that you have sustained a sad loss. Another breach is occasioned in your affections.

"In circumstances like these, how consolatory are the truths of our holy religion. The unseen hand of God's providence has taken from your family nest this little immortal, and, lifting her up, constituted her an angel in the paradise above. Thus the attractiveness of heaven is increased. As we pass on in life, meeting such afflictions, earth becomes more and more a strange land, while heaven wears more and more of a home-like aspect. Associated with the little brother who some years since was wrested from your parental embrace, the two now, as I doubt not, stand on 'the shining shore' to welcome the family into everlasting habitations.

"When you sing in the future that line of the long-metre doxology, viz., '*Praise Him above*, ye heavenly host,' it will possess a deeper meaning, awaken more tender feelings, and enkindle more heavenly aspirations.

"So far as I am aware, this is the first Annie Cookman that has entered those realms of light ; and if spirits can know one another, then I am sure *her name* in that world will immediately introduce her to the fellowship of some dearly beloved ones who have gone before.

"God bless you abundantly, my cherished brother and sister. My heart has always been full of love for you both, and now in your affliction I want to say something or do something that may lighten the burden which this bereavement has laid upon your tender and deeply affectionate hearts. May I not pray that our covenant-keeping God will sanctify this dispensation to your good, vouchsafe you special consolation and grace, and make you eventually an undivided family in the skies ? I would have been at the funeral but for the illness of our babe. For about ten days she has been hovering between life and death. Her condition is still very critical. I shall not be astonished if these precious children (*little Annie and Rebecca*), of about the same age, should both be in a better world about the same time."

One of Mr. Cookman's first steps on coming to New York was to find his way to the meetings for the promotion of holiness held at the house of Dr. Palmer, on Rivington Street.

He was in close sympathy with their specific aim, and became during his ministry in New York not only a receiver of great good through their agency, but also a contributor to their usefulness. His presence was regarded with great respect and joy by the large class of thoughtful, earnest, and devout persons who frequented the place. His words were uniformly discriminating and weighty—directly to the point and full of unction; and were perhaps as efficacious in nourishing the life of holiness as the words of many who were more advanced in years.

The following remarks, made at these meetings some time in the year 1862, and taken from his lips at the time by a friend, are valuable as examples of his brief testimonies:

“Brother Elliott said last Tuesday that while we were not bowed in prayer, yet prayers all the time were going up! Do we pray without ceasing? Do we talk with Jesus? I have been thinking so much of that exceeding great privilege to walk and talk with Jesus. As I pass along the noisy thoroughfares of this busy city, I feel that Jesus is near. I remember to have spent a few hours with Dr. Olin, whose portrait hangs yonder, having been his companion when I was a youth in a little journey he made in the vicinity of Washington City. I wanted to be silent, and drink in every word he uttered. I remember now that I have intercourse and association with a greater than Dr. Olin. I am so glad to be a friend of Christ’s: ‘Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you,’ comes to my mind very sweetly. Within the last few weeks a sentiment of Luther’s has been very present, in which he speaks of the first great step, the second, and the third, in a life of piety, being *humility*. I have been able to say for years, *I am saved through the BLOOD of JESUS CHRIST*. I have no doubt of my personal purity, but I want to be filled with the Spirit. I am hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and God is filling me. I have been too anxious for all the fullness *at once*; now I am willing to be filled by little and little, as God may determine. I am climbing up.

I don't leave my present stand-point, but I am climbing up, and wish to do so forever and ever.

"I do realize that the blood of Jesus Christ does cleanse me from all sin. There are two little sentiments which have been the subjects of frequent and delightful thought. One is 'WHITER THAN SNOW.' Wonderful that I, so low and so unworthy, should have this present personal experience—that CHRIST'S BLOOD should MAKE ME whiter 'than snow.' The other sentiment is 'LIFE HID WITH CHRIST.' Christ takes me into His bosom—Jesus wraps me up, envelops me in Himself. I want my words, actions, and all to be filled *with the Holy Spirit*. I want to avoid any action or word which may not be in harmony with the will of God. My self-examination leads me, in the midst of infirmities and deficiencies, to declare that I have the sense and witness of heart-purity. How can this be? It is all through Christ. I am made pure through the infinite atonement of the Lamb of God. Pray for me; it is the especial desire of my heart that I may be filled with God—be faithful, devoted, and ready for every good work."

The spirit breathed in these expressions was the spirit in which the devout pastor lived all the while. His conversation was in heaven. Meeting him one day on the street, near his own house, he said, "I want to go to heaven; I would like to be off if it were God's will; not that I am tired of life, or do not feel I have much to live for, but, oh, to be with Jesus is much more desirable!" Again, walking Broadway with him on one occasion, he put his arm around me and drew me affectionately to him, and said, "Oh, brother Henry, I wish you could see your way clear to come out decidedly on this great subject of perfect love, not only to enter into it, but to profess it—remember your sermon on 'spiritual discernment:' as in regeneration, so in entire sanctification, it is only when we have experienced the blessing that we can discern its nature."

One cold afternoon in November we left the old Book Con-

cern, Mulberry Street, together, and, reaching Broadway, we intended to get into omnibuses, as it was snowing violently—he into one which turned off toward Seventh Avenue, and I into one which ran up Fourth Avenue. The omnibuses were crowded. He suggested that we walk on. We did so, and soon we became so absorbed in conversation as to forget the stages and the snow. When we arrived at the parting-point we both expressed surprise. The delight of conversation had subdued the cold and the distance. “Thus it is,” he quickly said, “when we walk and talk with Jesus. It smoothes all the severities of life.”

Before following Mr. Cookman to his next charge, I must present an example of the patriotic speeches which he delivered, and also of the firm and advanced opinions which he expressed on national affairs, in the great crisis of the country. In the summer of 1862, while on a visit with his family at Columbia, an immense war meeting was held at Lancaster, and he was one of the speakers. I quote from a report of it which appeared in one of the daily papers:

“FELLOW-CITIZENS: This is to me a somewhat unexpected call, but I should feel myself recreant to every great principle of patriotism and of truth if I refused or even hesitated in this my native county, for it may not be known to many of you that I first opened my eyes upon God’s world within the limits of old Lancaster; it gave me a being, and it gave me one of the best of wives, so that I feel under immense obligations to it. [Cheers.] I say that I should feel myself recreant to every principle of truth and right if I hesitated to seize this opportunity to say, in the language of old John Adams, ‘Sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish, I give my heart and my hand’ to these Union measures. It is my living sentiment, and with the blessing of God it will be my dying sentiment—liberty and the Union now, liberty and the Union forever. [Great applause.]

“It is useless for any of us to disguise the fact—the stern and startling fact—that this Union, which is so unutterably dear to our hearts, is at the present time in imminent peril. Thousands, yea, hundreds of thousands of our fellow-citizens, organized and armed, are intent upon the overthrow of this, I dare to say, the very best Government that yonder sun ever looked down upon; a Government which ought to be just as dear to them as to our-

selves ; a Government with which our own hopes and the hopes of our children and children's children are intimately bound up to the very latest generation ; a Government closely connected, as we think, with the cause of liberty throughout the world, for if our experiment of self-government should prove a failure, we are satisfied that it must put back the hand of freedom on the dial-plate of time at least fifty or one hundred years ; a Government which, so far as we may judge, is one of Jehovah's right hands of power for the overthrow of despotism, error, ignorance, and every thing which could hinder the coming of His kingdom. Thousands and hundreds of thousands of our fellow-citizens, with worse than vandal-like violence, are rushing forward to destroy the superstructure of that Government. Now the practical inquiry occurs, What is to be done ? The answer, it appears to me, is an easy one.

"My fellow-citizens, what would you do if to-night at twelve o'clock you were to find an assassin in your bed-chamber, fully resolved upon your life ? I make no question but that you would spring from your slumbers and grapple with him, and not even hesitate to put him to death in order to save your own life. Parent, what would you do if a rebellion were to arise in your domestic circle ? Would you not stretch forward the hand of authority and quickly quell it ? Citizens of Lancaster, what would you do if an infamous mob should rise up in these streets to destroy valuable property and imperil precious life ? I make no doubt that you would take down the muskets and rifles still remaining among you, and with the point of the bayonet or with the use of ammunition drive back and put down such a mob. And you would do right. Self-protection would demand such a course. And in this case it is a stern duty. As Luther remarked on one occasion, 'May God help us, we can not do otherwise.' That flag yonder must float ; our Government must be maintained. [Cheers.] Our Union must be preserved and perpetuated in all its purity and integrity. [Cheers.] Millions may be spent, hundreds of thousands of lives may be sacrificed, a whole generation may be blotted out, and still we insist that it is of the very first consequence that our nationality be vindicated. ['Good,' and cheers.] Now I apprehend that it is with this great principle in view we are assembled and associated this afternoon.

"A remark of Colonel Forney's brought to my mind a circumstance which transpired many years ago. It is said that in a military engagement which occurred somewhere near the boundary-line which separates England and Scotland, a young chieftain fell just at the moment when, at the head of his troop, he was furiously and successfully charging the foe. His comrades in arms, seeing him fall, were immediately seized with consternation, and be-

gan to retire in confusion. Witnessing this, his soul immediately filled with sorrow, and, although he was feeble, he managed with some effort to raise himself upon his elbow, and while the life-blood was fast gushing from the gaping wound, while eternity was opening before him, he seized his sword, and, waving it over his head, shouted at the top of his voice, 'My boys, I am not dead! I am not dead, but I am looking to see that every man does his duty.' [Cheers.] So I am here this afternoon to say that our Union is not dead. She has been wounded, foully and fearfully wounded; and, observe, too, in the house of her friends. Still she is not dead. Hear it, you daughters and sons of Lancaster, she is not dead—never dead; but, sword in hand, she is looking to see that every citizen does his duty. [Great applause.] She is looking to ascertain whether, in this time of exigency, we will rally to the rescue; whether in this, the darkest hour of the Republic, we will come up united to the help of freedom and the help of God. For, remember, this is the cause of truth; this is the cause of justice; this is the cause of freedom; this is the cause of the Union; this is the cause of God. [Cheers.] I insist that God is always on the side of truth and justice and freedom. Will you not, then—will you not—will not all these young men and citizens, esteem it at once an obligation and a privilege and a joy to consecrate their energies, their substance, their time, their lives, and their all upon the altar of our country's cause? [Cheers.]

"Allusion has been made to the patriot daughters of Lancaster. God bless them! I see them in these windows and assembled in the vicinity of this stand. God bless them! Mothers, wives, daughters, sisters collected here, we have some faint idea of the sacrifices you are called upon to make, and of the sufferings which you, in the providence of God, must still undergo. Still I trust that at least an overwhelming majority of you have the spirit of that mother in the city of Philadelphia, who said the other day, 'What are sons worth without a country?' [Cheers.] I trust you have the spirit of a friend and former parishioner of mine in the borough of Harrisburg, who has sent six stalwart sons to the scene of strife. Just before they left home and their mother's presence they assembled in a photographic gallery and had their pictures taken, the eldest son standing in the midst of his other brothers, and grasping the flag of the stars and stripes, and that picture left with the mother is an evidence of undying affection. I think, too, in this connection of a mother in the State of New York, whose son the other day proceeded to the seat of war. He was connected with the Sheppard Rifles, Colonel Fareira commanding. It so occurred that the young man's position was at the end of the platoon, near the curb-stone, and the mother, anxious to be with him as long as he remained in New York,



took her place at his side. As the regiment moved along Fourteenth Street and down Broadway, that heroic old American mother walked with her boy, keeping step with him. To relieve him while she could, she took his musket from his hand, and stuck it over her old shoulder, and so she marched with him, side by side, carrying his musket; and the boy was so much moved by her devotion that the tears literally ran down his cheeks. 'Don't cry—don't cry, my boy,' she said; 'be brave, and then, with God's blessing, all must and will be well.' [Cheers.] So, mothers and wives and sisters and daughters of Lancaster, say to your cherished ones, 'Go, go!' It is like tearing the heart out of our living and breathing bodies; it is like enshrouding our present and future with a gloom that must all the time be felt; nevertheless, go and fight these battles of truth and justice and liberty, and God's blessing must be upon you and yours. [Applause.]

"As the last speaker remarked, it is a gloomy hour in our country's history; but I apprehend, my fellow-citizens, that if we look over the events of the last fifteen months we will still find reason for thankfulness. Is it nothing that that effeminacy which was beginning to curse our citizens has met so powerful and sufficient an antidote? Is it nothing that that spirit of insubordination which has been so painfully rife in our happy land, and which is, perhaps, one of the very causes of our present troubles, is receiving so effectual a check? Is it nothing that our patriotism, which seemed almost cold, is to-day burning with a brilliant flame? That that sentiment, which had almost died out, has become a principal passion in the nation's heart? I take it upon myself to say that there have been more acts of moral heroism in this land within the last fifteen months than in all our history previously. [Cheers.] And is all this nothing? Is it nothing that success from time to time has crowned our arms? Is it nothing that Nashville is ours? Is it nothing that Memphis is ours? and New Orleans is ours, and Norfolk is ours, and Winchester is ours, and the Shenandoah Valley is ours, and that Richmond is, we trust and think, soon to be ours? [Cheers.] Is it nothing that that flag which we all love so much—and, by the way, I am just here reminded of a sentiment of a rebel prisoner, who said to a friend of mine, that when they came within sight of the old flag they were very likely to feel weak in the knees. [Laughter and applause.] I say, is it nothing that that grand old flag on the last Fourth of July floated in every one of the thirty-four states? [Cheers.] Is all that nothing? [Great applause.]

"Some of you, perhaps, have heard of a very remarkable iron egg, said to be still preserved in the city of Dresden. There is a legend connected with this egg, which runs somewhat to this effect: On a certain occasion, a prince sent the iron egg to his betrothed. When she received the gift she

looked at it, and, becoming entirely disgusted with so rude a present, she flung it in disgust upon the ground. As it struck the earth, a secret spring was touched, and lo ! a silver yolk rolled forth from the egg. As she gathered up the yolk, she touched another secret spring, and lo ! a golden chicken was evolved. She took the chicken in both hands, and in doing so she touched a secret spring, and lo ! a ruby crown appeared. She touched a secret spring in the ruby crown, and lo ! her eyes were blessed with the sight of a magnificent marriage diamond ring. So let me remind you that this nation from the hand of God's providence seemed to have received an iron egg—an egg all crusted with tears and clotted with blood ; but lo ! with the dismantling of Sumter a secret spring was touched, and a silver yolk appeared, which, like a shield of patriotism, spread over all the Northern States of this great and glorious Union. A secret spring in this silver yolk of patriotism was touched, and instead of one golden chicken we have a brood—McClellan [cheers], Halleck, Banks, Burnside, Hunter, Footc, Farragut, Grant, and Buell, and many others whom I might, and perhaps ought to name. [Cheers.] Now these golden chickens are each one bringing a ruby crown of victory. McClellan, Yorktown ; Halleck, Corinth ; Banks, Winchester ; Burnside, Roanoke and Newbern ; Grant, Forts Henry and Donelson ; Buell, Shiloh ; Foote, Island No. 10 ; and Farragut—not a very pretty name, but certainly a very pretty deed—has given us New Orleans. Each one has contributed his ruby to make up a great crown of victory, and when the secret spring in that crown shall be touched the ring of the Union will appear still unbroken, and rendered more beautiful and valuable than ever before by the addition of the sparkling diamond of universal liberty. [Tremendous applause.]

“ ‘The cloud is vanishing from the day ;

Lo ! the right is about to conquer—

Clear the way !’

“ Men of thought, men of action, clear the way—clear the way ! Our army at Harrison's Landing, our country dismembered and bleeding, the cause of freedom throughout the world, and God sitting upon the circle of yonder firmament, are making powerful and resistless calls upon us to do our duty, and our whole duty, to our country. [Cheers.]”

The session of the New York Conference held in the Washington Square Church, New York City, was one of marked interest and solemnity, especially on account of the Report which was adopted on the state of the country. One of the members of the Conference, Captain Pelatiah Ward, who had volunteered

early in the war, had been killed in battle during the past summer. He was a generous, valiant man, and much loved by his brethren. The President of the United States had issued the proclamation of emancipation, the justice and policy of which were yet much debated, and the unanimity which at the outbreak of the rebellion universally prevailed had become much disturbed by factious opposition. Mr. Cookman felt it was no time for Methodist preachers to mince words, to stickle over questions of constitutional nicety, but that the trumpet from them, as leaders of public opinion, must give a certain sound. He drew up the report. Its reading excited the deepest emotion ; thrilling speeches were made by leading members of the Conference, and with but slight opposition it was adopted amid great applause. I give the resolutions :

*“Resolved—1.* That as members and ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church within the bounds of the New York Annual Conference, we cheerfully renew our vows of uncompromising and unconditional loyalty to the United States of America—a nationality we are proud to acknowledge, and resolved, with the blessing of Heaven, to maintain.

*“2.* That it is our duty, enforced alike by the Word of God and our Book of Discipline, to submit to and to co-operate with the regularly constituted civil authorities, and to enjoin the same upon our people.

*“3.* That while we do not deny, but rather recognize and defend, the right of our people to discuss the measures and policy of the Government, at the same time we would counsel that, in the present critical condition of public affairs, this right is to be exercised with great forbearance, caution, and prudence.

*“4.* That the conduct of those who, influenced by political affinities or Southern sympathies, and under the pretext of discriminating between the Administration and the Government, throw themselves in the path of almost every warlike measure, is in our view covert treason, which has the malignity without the manliness of those who have arrayed themselves in open hostility to our liberties, and is deserving of our sternest denunciation and our most determined opposition.

*“5.* That slavery is an evil, incompatible in its spirit and practice with the principles of Christianity, with republican institutions, with the peace and prosperity of our country, and with the traditions, doctrines, and disci-

pline of our Church ; and that our long and anxious inquiry, 'What shall be done for its extirpation?' has been singularly answered by divine Providence, which has given to Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, the power and the disposition to issue a proclamation guaranteeing the boon of freedom to millions of Southern bondmen.

"6. That we heartily concur in this proclamation as indicating the righteousness of our cause, securing the sympathies of the liberty-loving the world over, and, above all, insuring the approbation of the universal Father, who is invariably on the side of justice and freedom.

"7. That we find abundant reason for gratitude and encouragement in the recent revival of the nation's patriotism ; in the maintenance of our public credit ; in the change of public opinion abroad, especially in England ; and in the gradual but, we trust, sure progress of our arms.

"8. That we cordially accept the President's recommendation to observe the thirtieth day of the present month as a season of solemn fasting and prayer ; and that, assembling in our various places of worship, we will humble ourselves, and earnestly supplicate the great Ruler of nations to forgive our national offenses ; to guide, sustain, and bless our public rulers ; to look upon our army and navy mercifully, giving success to our arms, so that this infamous rebellion may be speedily crushed, and peace, at once righteous and permanent, may return to and smile upon our American heritage.

"9. That our interest in and sympathy for those who represent us in the field continues unabated, and that to all those who are suffering in consequence of the havoc or desolations of this terrible war, we offer our sincerest sympathies and Christian condolence.

"10. That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the President of the United States, and that they be published in the *Christian Advocate and Journal*."

It was such action as this on the part of the Methodist ministers, sustained by the laymen for whom and to whom they spoke, both at the ballot-box and on the battle-field, that led Mr. Lincoln to say that no Church had done so much to support the Government in its efforts to maintain the Union as the Methodist ministers and people. It was not a little due to Mr. Cookman that the declaration of the New York Conference, representing a large popular sentiment in the commercial heart of the nation, assumed a shape so positive and incisive. It was but the emanation of his own convictions.

The pastorate of Mr. Cookman closed at the Central Church with the universal regret of its members. The young people had become ardently attached to him. He had taken especial pains to draw together and render efficient the young men of the congregation, and for this purpose had organized among them a society called the "Christian Brotherhood," which held regular meetings for business, religious, social, and literary exercises, and also took general supervision of the young men who attended the Church services. This society was pleased to express their appreciation of their retiring pastor by passing resolutions which are valuable as a tribute to him and as a hint to other ministers :

*"Whereas*, Rev. Alfred Cookman, our late pastor, has, in the economy of our Church, been transferred to another field of labor—

*"Resolved*, That we remember with great pleasure our relations during the term of his pastorate, and that we deem his unusual interest in our Association, and continued efforts to promote its prosperity, as worthy of particular mention and record.

*"Resolved*, That to his regular attendance upon our meetings, his courteous yet earnest participation in our discussions, his evident anxiety that our organization should prove of the highest benefit to the Church, and his constant endeavor for this result, is due much of its prosperity and usefulness.

*"Resolved*, That upon retrospect of the term of Brother Cookman's service, we are led to believe that the pastors of our churches would add greatly to the effectiveness of their labors by more fully interesting themselves in the established meetings and organizations of their charges ; as an active sympathy in concerns already enlisting the sympathies of their people must afford opportunity not otherwise enjoyed of learning their dispositions and peculiarities, of securing a place in their affections, and of gaining confidence, respect, and influence, as also, by counsel and co-operation, of promoting wiser action and developing wider results.

*"Resolved*, That the name of Rev. Alfred Cookman be placed upon the list of honorary members of this Brotherhood."

## CHAPTER XV.

### TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NEW YORK.—THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC AND THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

MR. COOKMAN was next appointed, in the spring of 1863, to the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church on West Thirty-fourth Street. Here his ministry proved highly acceptable and useful. The congregations were never larger than while he was pastor, and there were many valuable accessions to the Church. There are some persons still connected with Trinity, and some belonging to other churches in the city, who were the fruits of his fidelity at this time, and who are among the most useful and active Christians in New York. The savor of his piety diffused itself rapidly through all the departments of the station. He established a service on Friday afternoons, under his personal control, for the advancement of Christian purity, and succeeded in gathering to it many of the earnest lovers of holiness within his own charge, and some beyond it. These meetings were very helpful to the piety of the Church, and were instrumental in bringing not a few into the clearer light of perfect love. In their use his personal religious experience was also greatly enriched, and his ministry correspondingly nourished.

The most marked event of this pastoral term was Mr. Cookman's visit to the Army of the Potomac on special service under the direction of the Christian Commission. He showed himself ready not only to talk sacrifice, but to go to the front, that he might cheer, in the capacity of minister and brother, the hearts of the valiant and exposed soldiers. The best epit-

ome of his thoughts and doings while thus engaged is furnished in his letters written to friends at home. The Sanitary and Christian Commissions, organized for the relief of the soldiers of the United States, in addition to what was done for them directly by the Government, were sustained wholly by the voluntary offerings of the people, and constituted in their work one of the brightest features of the war. Never before was stern suffering so alleviated by the tenderer aspects of Christian and humane sentiment. The benevolence of the country rose in a majesty and beauty which signally contrasted with the dark clouds of fratricidal conflict. The Christian Commission aimed not only to extend to the fainting warrior the delicacies which the body and mind so much needed, but also, and chiefly, the Word of Life—in the shape of Bibles, good books, tracts, preaching, and pastoral visitation. It drafted for its occasional services ministers and laymen of the first talents; and the good it accomplished, while abundantly attested in the records of its history, can not be fully known until all earthly accounts are written up.

To his wife :

“WASHINGTON, Saturday night, 1864.

\* \* \* “Not for a single moment have I faltered in my faith that this path in which I am walking has been appointed by my faithful Heavenly Father. Oh! how unspeakably precious He has been since we parted yesterday morning. I am leaning on His almighty arm, and feel assured that all will be well. Every thing is transpiring just as I could desire. In the New York train I found Dr. Stryker, my neighbor; Mr. McAllister, Sr., of Harrisburg; and Mr. Chidlaw, who has been in the employ of the Christian Commission. The time passed quickly.

“Reaching Philadelphia, I dined with Mr. George H. Stuart, who was enthusiastically affectionate and attentive; purchased many needful articles, etc. Proceeding to George’s, I rather surprised them with my visit and mission, and spent a most delightful evening in their society. This morning left Philadelphia at eight o’clock; found friends in the car; traveled without interruption; had about two hours in Baltimore, but owing to a chafed foot, which was quite painful, could not visit friends. Left about half-past three;

found some friends in the car again (Pittsburgh friends) ; arrived in Washington about half-past five. To-night I am with my old friend Scott. We supped and will sleep together. To-morrow I preach for the Fourteenth New Hampshire Regiment, and on Monday morning, with my friends Hatfield and Watkins, start for the front. The Christian Commission show us every attention. They are evidently anxious to make a good impression on our minds, that, like the spies, we may take back a 'good report.'

"Do not give yourself any anxiety about me. I will try to be careful for your sake. Whenever I can I will drop you a line. As I suggested when with you, if necessary, telegraph to Ebenezer Scott, No. 393 Pennsylvania Avenue, who can communicate immediately, through the Commission, with the army. If you write before you hear from me again, direct to the care of E. Scott, Box 285 (a new number). My friend is waiting for me, and I must close. Tired as I am, I feel as if I could thus communicate with my darling wife for an hour longer. *Pray for me.* Oh! I do so much want to be useful in the work to which I am going. My soul to-night is sweetly reposing in God. 'He is my song and my shield.'"

To his wife :

WASHINGTON, Saturday night, 10 o'clock.

"You will not object to a short note, I am sure. I am finishing my first Sabbath in the service of the Christian Commission. This morning I proceeded, according to arrangement, to the camp or barracks of the First New Hampshire. To our surprise and disappointment, we found that they had suddenly left the night before. Part of another regiment, however, had come in, and the proposition was for us to preach to them in the afternoon. Thereupon I hastened to Wesley Chapel, and heard a masterly sermon on the subject of the Transfiguration from my friend B. Peyton Brown ; met any number of old friends ; yielded to the pressing invitation of Mrs. T——, and accompanied her home to dinner.

"After dinner Brother Scott called, and we proceeded again to the camp of the First Maine. The men were drawn up in a hollow square. It was a magnificent spectacle. They appeared in full dress uniform and under arms, accompanied by a brass band. Surrounded by a large company of Washingtonians, I held forth the Word of Life. It was an open-air service, and consequently very exhausting. Nevertheless I got through comfortably. The men were solemn and attentive, and I trust good was done. After the service I distributed some papers and hymn-books, and seized the opportunity to converse religiously with a number of the soldiers. With Brother Charles Lane, my first class-leader, I then went home to tea. Oh, how very, very cordial he was. I praise my Heavenly Father for his friendship



and love. At seven I went to the Armory Square Hospital, and preached to a chapel full of soldiers. Never have I addressed a more attentive or apparently interested company of men. They hung on every syllable. At the close about twenty rose for prayers. The power of the Highest rested upon the assemblage. We sung 'Going home,' 'Marching along,' 'Rest for the weary;' oh, how the noble boys poured out the tide of song! I thought while I was preaching to them, many a faithful mother and sister are pouring out their souls in earnest prayer for their absent sons and brothers. God gave me their hearts, and the chaplain is clamorous for me to remain and labor among them during the present week. I leave the determination of this to that faithful God whose I am and whom I serve.

"This ends my first day of labor. Glory to God to-night for his mercy shown the very feeblest of all his messengers. Oh, how my soul trusts and rejoices in the God and rock of my salvation! To-morrow I move, as a good soldier of Jesus, just where my Captain directs. My foot has been very sore, obliging me to limp in walking; still I have not been hindered in any department of work. Remember me to all friends. Ask my people to pray for their absent pastor, that God will own and bless his humble labors in behalf of our brave soldiers. Kiss my children for papa. Tell dear mother and sister Mary, and John and sister M——, to remember me specially before God, and believe me yours devotedly."

To his wife:

"BRANDY STATION, AT THE FRONT, February 29, 1864.

"Here I am at the front, within a few miles of General Lee's army, and yet as calm as a summer's eve. We left Washington this morning about ten o'clock, and, after a most interesting ride of seventy miles, reached our place of destination at half-past two this afternoon. The country through which we passed wears an air of desolation, which was dismal to contemplate; no fences, no houses, no cultivation whatever, only the *débris* of destroyed property and continuous camps of soldiers. By my side in the car sat a Captain C——, of Camden, New Jersey, who has been connected with the army since the commencement of the war. He was very kind and communicative, pointing out the scenes of several battles, and calling attention to various points of interest.

"My companions in the service of the Commission, Brothers Hatfield and Watkins, were very fraternal and pleasant. Arriving at Brandy Station, we found our head-quarters quite near, an ordinary camp-meeting tent, with a front and rear apartment. Here we have our bunks for sleeping, rather rough, but better almost than I had expected. Our commissary prepared

our dinner. When we sat down we could not restrain immoderate laughter. It was primitive truly. Tin cups for chocolate, tin plates, the brownest sugar, and no butter. However, we got along gloriously. My precious little George would have enjoyed it, for there was plenty of good molasses to eat with our bread. The meal dispatched we sallied forth, and spent an hour very pleasantly in the contraband camp, which is quite near. As the Commission can not give us work until to-morrow, we arranged for a meeting to-night among the colored people. There is an Uncle Ben and an Uncle Dick who are represented as most interesting characters. We have just dispatched our supper—tin cups and plates, of course, but some butter and beef-steak—a right good meal. I have made up my mind to my circumstances, and hope to enjoy and profit by them.

"My friend Scott was very kind in completing my outfit. I think I have every thing needful for one in my circumstances. My only trial now is my absence from my family. I think of you very frequently, and ask my Heavenly Father to watch over and preserve you all. My mind is still kept in perfect peace. God opens my way, and strengthens and comforts me as I walk in that way. Blessed be His name. The brethren are hurrying me to accompany them to the negro meeting. Tell the Friday-afternoon meeting to pray for me specially."

To his wife :

"CAMP SIXTH N. Y. HEAVY ARTILLERY, March 2, 1864.

"Will you not confess that I am a faithful army correspondent? I believe that I have written every day since we parted. Yesterday we were confined at Brandy Station by the storm. It was one of the most dismal days I ever witnessed. Shut up in our tent, letter-writing was an agreeable pastime. This morning I rose after a good night's rest to look forth upon a cloudless sky; but the mud—oh, the mud! I now better understand the difficulty of army movements. The passage of army wagons (of which there is no end) and heavy artillery is almost entirely interrupted by the condition of the soil.

"This morning I visited head-quarters, and had a most agreeable interview with General Meade. He received us very politely, invited us into his tent, bade us be seated, and chatted very familiarly and kindly. His photographs are very good; perhaps they give the impression of a larger and more rugged man than the original. His recent illness has left him thin, but he professes to be enjoying excellent health at the present. A care-worn expression lingers round his face; but is this wonderful when we consider the burden of care which rests upon his patriotic heart? He impressed me with

his gentlemanly bearing and kind spirit, rather than with his superior soldierly appearance. We called at the same time on General Patrick, who is one of the notabilities here, occupying the position of Provost Marshal of this division of the army. He is an intelligent, affable, and interesting man. I have reached my field of labor. The N. Y. Sixth Heavy Artillery numbers about 1300 men. Besides these there are New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts batteries, and the ammunition trains, all around us, numbering together 3000 or 4000 men. Here, then, I am to toil for their advantage. It is not exactly the place I would have chosen for myself, nevertheless it may be the right place. When it was mentioned to me, I did not dare to murmur or remonstrate, for I have put myself in God's hands, and, without any agency of my own, want to see what He proposes to do with me during my sojourn at the front.

"The soldiers are in winter-quarters—log huts covered with canvas. The officers' quarters are exceedingly tasty and comfortable: little homes that would not disfigure Central Park. Many of them have their wives here, and seem disposed to enjoy life while it lasts. To visit the men in their tents, converse with them, etc., etc., will occupy most of my time. A little while ago I walked over to look at the battery of the N. Y. Fifth Heavy Artillery. A young lieutenant whom I providentially met was singularly polite and kind—escorting me to various points of interest, showing me all the appurtenances of their heavy Parrot guns, etc. I was careful to introduce the subject of religion, and was delighted to find him respectful and tender. How is my dear wife this afternoon? I have not as yet heard a word from home. I suppose that my correspondence will almost necessarily be a good deal interrupted. Our quarters here are considerably rougher than they were at Brandy Station; but never mind, they are better than I deserve."

To his wife:

"HEAD-QUARTERS OF RESERVE ARTILLERY, March 3, 1864.

"I am sitting in our chapel tent, which is used by the soldiers during the day as a kind of reading-room. They find here books, papers, with all the necessary articles for penning letters, etc. It is very thoughtful and kind in the Christian Commission to furnish them with these conveniences.

"Last night I commenced operations in this vicinity, preaching to a company of soldiers who crowded our chapel tent. They were very attentive, and thirteen rose for prayers. I have appointed an inquiry and experience meeting for this afternoon, and expect to preach again to-night. I say 'expect,' for every thing in an army is very uncertain. Owing to the soft condition of the soil, the corps of heavy artillery, especially, will hardly be

able to move for a number of weeks, and yet as I write the roar of cannon fills my ears. It may be only target-practice, or it may be the commencement of an engagement; most probably the former. Do not at any time be alarmed about me. I am led by infinite wisdom, defended by infinite power, comforted by infinite love. I do not allow myself to live in the future, for three weeks would seem long, but a day at a time I try to do my work, looking unto Jesus.

"Our accommodations are not even what we had at Brandy Station. Our tent is about ten feet square. In that little space we do our cooking and sleeping. The former is supervised by a superannuated soldier, who does the best he can. The sleeping was decidedly cold last night. I had to withdraw my nose from the air, which was full of frost, and roll myself up in a coil or bundle, to make all the animal heat available. Even then I spent some sleepless hours through chilliness. I do not repeat these things by way of complaint—nay, I am too good a soldier for that. This is only a reference to the seasoning process I am undergoing. I feel very well to-day, and hope, with the blessing of God, to endure hardness, and then return to you in the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of peace. Give my love to my dear people. Tell them to pray for me very specially."

To his wife :

"RESERVE ARTILLERY, March 4, 1864.

"A few moments before dinner will afford me an opportunity to pen you a short letter. This, I am sure, will not be unwelcome. It is now one week since I left you. I am not sorry the week is gone, for, Providence favoring, I am that much nearer my loved home. To-day it is blustering, raw, disagreeable; most probably the herald of another storm. Last evening we had even a larger crowd of soldiers than the night previous. They were deeply serious. Six or seven rose for prayers. I trust that good influences are at work. We followed the sermon with a prayer-meeting. Four prayers were offered; two of them by lieutenants of the regiment—noble fellows. Tattoo sounds at eight o'clock, at which time the roll is called, and the soldiers are required to go to their tents. This, of course, limits our services. If we had another hour, say till nine, I have no doubt it would be for the advantage of all concerned.

"Another disadvantage is the godlessness of the officers; that is, most of them, for there are a few honorable exceptions. Last night they had a regular ball in the camp, which was attended by their wives and sisters. The festivities were protracted until a late hour, for one of my last remembrances was the strains of music. I slept very comfortably last night, piled on the

coats and shawls, made myself warm, and got through the night in a refreshing way. This afternoon I propose to ride on horseback over to Brandy Station and find my correspondence, for up to this hour I have not heard a word from home.

"Tell sister M—— that I am waiting upon God ; sitting with a teachable spirit at the feet of Him who has said, 'Learn of me.' I want to be instructed in the deep things of God, and furnished unto every good word and every good work. I surrender myself into the care of my infinitely wise and powerful Father, trusting that He will lead me into usefulness and truth, plenty and peace. I am sure He will ; but it is sometimes a trial to walk blindly, not knowing the how or the wherefore. Bless His holy name, there is nothing, so far as I am aware, between Him and myself, and I trust momentarily and sweetly in the merit of Jesus Christ my Lord. Kiss my children for their absent papa. I shall be delighted to clasp them in my arms again. Love to all. They are calling me for dinner."

To his wife :

"HEAD-QUARTERS RESERVE ARTILLERY, March 5, 1864.

"After writing to you yesterday, I borrowed the horse of one of the captains, and had a delightful ride over to Brandy Station. I thought of my boys, and wished that they might be here for a little while to enjoy the privilege of galloping over the Virginia fields. At Brandy Station I found a letter in waiting, the one you sent by the hand of sister M—— to Philadelphia, and while I tarried the cars arrived, bringing another written on Tuesday evening. Thank you kindly for these affectionate epistles. They come like angel visitants. I need not say that they were read and re-read. I was sorry to hear of the continued illness of the children ; perhaps by this time they are all better. Leaving them in the care of our faithful Heavenly Father, I feel assured that He will order all things well. Remember that if their illness is serious or dangerous, you must at once telegraph for me. Parting with sister and little 'Streak of Sunshine' must have been another trial for you. That boy Will would be the life and light of any home.

"Last night I preached again to a company of soldiers that entirely crowded the tent. I trust that seed was sown in their hearts which will speedily appear in the form of fruit. After the service was over, and all were gone, I sat in my tent reading ; while thus engaged the curtain was drawn aside, and a soldier entering, glided to my side. 'Chaplain,' said he, 'I can not rest—can not sleep—I must have relief. Won't you pray for me ?' 'Oh yes, soldier,' said I, 'most gladly ;' and after preaching unto him Jesus, we kneeled down together, and I poured out my soul in prayer for his speedy

salvation. These facts are my inspiration and encouragement during this time of exile from home.

"Last night I rested rather comfortably ; my shawl makes a good pillow, and my overcoat, thrown over my blanket, contributes to the warmth of my bed. To-day it is raining again ; most probably this will prove a repetition of last Tuesday's storm. Softening this Virginia soil, these rains will oblige the army to remain where it is. In my experience I am panting for more of God, more of His truth, more of His holiness, more of His power ; 'hungering and thirsting' expresses my feelings at this time. Oh ! I want to return home in the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of peace."

To his wife :

"ARTILLERY RESERVE, March 7, 1864.

"My last letter was written on Saturday. In the evening of that day we had an experience-meeting ; I would have given almost any thing to have had you present. The testimonies of Christian soldiers melted my heart to tenderness, and my head was literally a fountain of tears. One and another spoke affectionately of pious and praying mothers. A noble Ohio soldier said, 'When I left my home, a dear, kind sister gave me that little Testament' (drawing the book from his side-pocket and holding it up). 'I had not been a member of the army long, before I realized I must have a friend. Who should be my friend ? I opened my little Testament and read of JESUS. Oh ! what a friend He has been to me. This book has been a great comfort to me in my absence from home. It is full of sweet promises. One is, "In my Father's house are many mansions," etc. If I fall on the battle-field, I believe I shall go to occupy my mansion in the everlasting kingdom of God.'

"But I can not begin to tell you all. It was one of *the* hours of my life. Twelve or fifteen rose for prayers, and all testified 'It is good to be here.' Yesterday I preached in the afternoon, and again in the evening. The interest is constantly on the increase. Last night the tent was packed, and numbers went away unable to get in. Men rose in every direction asking our prayers. Some came to me after the meeting, and with unrestrained tears said, 'Chaplain, pray for me.' The Christian men of the regiment and batteries are in the best of spirits, while the outsiders are evidently interested and impressed. Some are insisting that I shall accept the chaplaincy of the regiment, and march with them during the approaching summer ; but this is not practicable. I am sitting at the Master's feet, anxious to know His will concerning me. Lord ! teach me and lead me, is my constant prayer. I enjoy the divine presence more in preaching than at any other time. I am waiting for revelations of God beyond any thing I have ever experienced.

"The discomforts of my present situation will make me appreciate and enjoy the advantages of my home when I return. For the last two days we have been smoked out. The wind has driven the smoke down the pipe of our little stove, making it almost impossible to breathe. When I would rest upon the bed, I have been obliged to cover my face with my handkerchief, and breathe through the linen. This morning the wind has shifted again, and we get along better. My foot is still pretty sore, preventing me from walking far; but I do not suffer much, and get along very well. To-day we are to have a grand review of this division of the army. The weather is pleasant, and I suppose it will be a grand affair. I wish my boys could witness it."

To his wife:

"SIXTH NEW YORK HEAVY ARTILLERY, March 8, 1864.

"Yesterday was a great day. It brought me *three* letters from my darling wife—no, two from yourself and one from George—that was it. Didn't I devour them—roll them over and over as a sweet morsel, extract the meaning and sweetness of every sentence. They were a rich feast for my hungry heart. I am thankful that you continue well, though I was sorry to hear of any neuralgia twinges. If my wishes could govern, you should not have an ache or a pain. Yesterday we had a grand review of the Artillery Reserve. It was very fine. The appearance and evolutions of the troops equal any thing I have ever seen. The soldiers in their costume do not present that shabby appearance I had anticipated. The colonel is one of the most tasteful of men, and one of the strictest of officers. Consequently every thing shines, even to boots. The regiment yesterday might have marched up Broadway alongside of your famous Seventh.

"In the evening I preached to another crowd. Large numbers rose again for prayer. I trust that God's spirit is actively at work in the minds and hearts of the soldiers. If we had the co-operation of the officers, I think we would have a sweeping and blessed revival; but they hold themselves aloof from the men, and are altogether too great to stoop to the consideration of any thing so insignificant as personal religion. I am myself waiting on God, not making that rapid headway in personal experience that I had anticipated—*not losing*, but concerned to learn those lessons it is so important for me to know. Respecting the Bible money, you will take that, as I wished you to take the six dollars for Mrs. —, out of the benevolent drawer—the drawer *underneath*, that *draws out*. How lonely you must feel without sister and Will. Do you wish me to call for them on my return? I would be glad if you would send me the *Advocate*, *Methodist*, and *Independent*. We do not get them here until they are about ten days or two weeks old."

To his wife :

“SIXTH NEW YORK HEAVY ARTILLERY, March 9, 1864.

“Yesterday, I believe, is the first week-day that I have failed to write to you since our separation. The reason was a jaunt to Culpepper Court-house, distant about ten or twelve miles. I started in the morning about ten o'clock, called at Brandy Station (but found no letters), pushed on to Culpepper, which I reached a little after twelve. This has been quite an important Virginia town. Some of the houses are respectable, but, like all Southern villages, and especially those that have been ravaged by war, it has an untasteful and dilapidated look. The soldiers have been very rude. Only one of a number of churches is fit for occupancy. I met with some friends and enjoyed my visit. About half-past two I started back, making a little detour from the road, and calling at the house of Hon. John Minor Botts. He is faithful among the faithless. A member of Congress when father was chaplain, he remembered father, and this fact secured me a warm welcome. Leaving his comfortable mansion (the only one I have seen in the Old Dominion), I reached my present quarters about half-past four.

“The horseback ride of twenty-two miles left me wretchedly stiff and sore. Nevertheless I preached in the evening. The Spirit of the Lord seemed to rest upon the soldiers. Upward of twelve rose for prayers, and the meeting which followed was spirited and profitable. The night before we had an experience-meeting. It was glorious. One old soldier said, ‘I was converted in 1843; ran well until I joined the army. Then I began to lose ground. Like *Peter*, I denied my Lord, and, soldiers, I do not know but in some instances, like *Peter*, I blasphemed. I said bad words. I came to this meeting. In this tent God found me as he found *Adam* in the garden. He said, “Soldier, where art thou?” Like *Adam*, I thought to hide myself. I tried to get away. No use. Now I stand up, make this humble confession, and ask you to pray for me.’ A number profess to have experienced religion within the last few days, and still the work goes on. The Christian Commission is the *Church in the army*. And though it may be attended with sacrifice, all patriotic parties ought to be willing to take their turn in serving the Church.”

To his wife :

“SIXTH NEW YORK HEAVY ARTILLERY, }  
Friday morning, March 11, 1864. }

“I have been writing this morning a letter to a wife who resides at Garrison Station, on the line of the Hudson River Railroad. Last night her husband was powerfully converted. The case is a thrillingly interesting



one. Two weeks since he tore himself from a dear, pious, and faithful wife and three beloved children. His companion remonstrated with tears in her eyes. Still he enlisted.

"After great hardship he reached this camp on Wednesday morning. In the evening he came to the tent. The preached Word affected his heart, and he rose for prayer. All day yesterday he was a subject of powerful awakening. Last evening, during our experience-meeting, he rose up (a noble-looking man), and, with tears raining down his cheeks, said, 'Oh, fellow-soldiers, how much I want to be saved. All day I have been wrestling with conviction. Now I yield—I yield, I can hold out no more. I am resolved to seek and serve God. Oh, won't you please to pray for me.' I dropped on my knees, and poured out my soul in importunate pleading. All the soldiers were wonderfully interested and engaged. Prayer finished, the soldier rose again and said, 'Fellow-soldiers, I must tell you; I believe God has heard and answered prayer. The love of Jesus is shed abroad in my heart. I am happy in God. I came to be a soldier of the nation—now I am in addition a soldier of Jesus. When we were coming here, very many of our company were sorry that they had enlisted; but oh! if you will enlist in the service of Jesus you will never be sorry.' Thereupon another soldier sprang upon his feet and said, 'I will enlist to-night. Two of my children are in heaven. I want to meet them there, and I intend to march with that dear man. Hear, fellow-soldiers, I enlist to-night.' I can give you no idea of the meeting. It was wonderful—glorious—surpassed any thing I ever witnessed. My own soul was richly baptized. I lay down on my bed with a heart melting in gratitude before God.

"Yesterday was one of the stormiest I ever saw. It rained violently and blew fearfully. I thought again and again our tent must be prostrated. God, however, watched over us, and at the close of the day we were living to praise Him. This morning it is foggy and misty. The wind still lingers in the northeast. I am sustained by the conviction that I am in the line of duty, and God strengthens and blesses me. When the time comes to return home, I will feel great joy in turning my face and directing my steps to the dearest spot on earth to me. How are you this morning, my darling Annie? and how are my beloved children? If I had the 'wishing cap' or the 'seven-league boots,' I would know all about you in a little while. Our omnipresent and omnipotent Father watches between us while we are absent one from another. Blessed be His name. Give the children three kisses apiece for papa. Remember me affectionately to all relatives and friends. Tell sister M—— to pray on. God hears and is answering her prayers. Ask all my friends to remember me at a throne of grace."

To his wife :

"SIXTH N. Y. HEAVY ARTILLERY, Saturday, March 12, 1864.

"We have had a long, dismal rain-storm. Yesterday we had in the morning a regular northeast drizzle ; in the afternoon and evening most violent thunder-showers. This weather has shut us up in our tents, and left the country around in a most terrible condition. The streams are swollen to twice or thrice their original size, while the soil is stirred in its depths. I think there is a good deal of solicitude at Washington respecting an advance of the army ; but while the roads are in their present condition the troops must almost necessarily continue stationary. This will harmonize with the views of the soldiers, who, from previous experience, seem to dread exposure, especially lying out, at this uncertain season of the year. If they remain in winter-quarters ten days longer, it will include my term of service, and leave me free to return home without the necessity of accompanying them in their proposed marches. I think, however, any movement of the army now would be a sufficient reason why I, with only a few days of furlough\* remaining, should retire from the front.

"This morning the sun shines brightly, and the air is as balmy as the breath of May. I am quite well, barring a little rheumatism in my shoulders, which makes it difficult to get my coat off and on. My foot has been giving me a good deal of trouble. For two weeks it has been discharging more or less. I consulted the surgeon of the regiment ; he gave me some lint and plaster, which I think did not do it much good. Some salve I am using now seems to be healing it up.

"Our meetings yesterday were delightful. In the afternoon it was a prayer and experience meeting ; at night I preached on the subject of forgiveness of sins. The attendance was large and the interest unabated. Large numbers rose for prayers. One new convert got up last night and exhorted his fellow-soldiers powerfully. After this he prayed with great tenderness and unction. I realize in my own experience great nearness to the Saviour. Oh, what would I do without the love and fellowship of Jesus ! Just now an old soldier brings into our little tent a box he has received from home. Opening it for pa—apples, chickens, preserves, eggs, cakes, etc. Noble fellow ! he is insisting that we shall help ourselves. He would be glad if we would take half that he has. Perfectly delighted, he says, 'Ain't it nice !' 'How thoughtful and kind are my family at home.' Oh ! what a glorious thing it is to be kind and generous and noble. So I have filled up my daily epistle. To-morrow is the Sabbath of the Lord. Oh, that it may prove the best day of my life !"

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\* From his Church.

To the Rev. John E. Cookman :

"ARTILLERY RESERVE, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, March 17, 1864.

"The blessed Bible resting on my knee constitutes my desk or table, and, in the absence of pen and ink, you will be satisfied with pencilmanship. I am getting along right well in my spring campaign. Excepting these sickening rheumatic aches I sometimes have in my arms and shoulders, keeping me awake all night, I have been blessed with uninterrupted health. Occasionally I get a horse and have a glorious ride. If you could see me darting over these Virginia hills, you would think of an aid-de-camp of General Meade, or perhaps one of Kilpatrick's cavalry in citizen's dress. I did not know I could ride so well.

"My letters come irregularly. More than a week has elapsed since I heard from home. But for Mary's sweet, affectionate letter yesterday, I should be tempted to believe some one is ill. I have written enough to you for the present, as I must take a little space for my sister. Thank you a thousand times for your affectionate letter."

To his sister, Miss Mary B. Cookman :

"March 17, 1864.

"I do not know what I should have done yesterday but for your tender and more than welcome letter. Not having heard from home for some days, I procured a horse and rode like a courier to Brandy Station, confident of a budget. But for your kind consideration, I should have suffered a great disappointment. Your gentle words and sisterly assurances satisfied the want, and I cantered back more leisurely to my temporary home in this Virginia wilderness.

"In my letter to John I have written of my physical welfare. Let me tell you of my spiritual condition and ministerial success. God keeps my soul in peace. When I walk these hills alone, I feel I am not alone. My Heavenly Father vouchsafes me His presence, and I am allowed precious communion with Himself. Oh, what would I do in my exile and loneliness if I had not the love of Jesus and the fellowship of the Spirit. Our meetings are still largely attended and decidedly interesting. Every night there are some new cases of awakening and conversion. On Tuesday evening, besides a number who rose for prayers, four noble soldiers stood upon their feet, confessed their sinfulness, expressed their purpose to do better, and asked the prayers of all present; two of them professed to find Jesus before the close of the meeting. Oh, how much I wish you could enjoy one of our experience-meetings. Last night an old regular in the United States service

rose, and with a face illumined with celestial sunshine, he told of his love for Jesus and his hope of heaven.

"My labors in the field are nearly concluded. Next Monday, God willing, I shall start for Washington, then home again. My home and its relations never seemed more attractive or lovely than now. How much I praise God that the lines have fallen unto me in such pleasant places. May I say that your sweet love and sisterly devotion are highly appreciated and fully reciprocated by your unworthy brother. I feel that I do not deserve the confidence and affection with which my kindred and friends seem to regard me. This, with all my other blessings, is of the Lord, and to Him shall be the praise and glory. Now I must close. Receive the assurance of the undying love of your brother."

To his mother, Mrs. Mary Cookman :

"March 17, 1864.

"Last, but not least, my long letter would not be complete if you were overlooked, but that is farthest from my thoughts. You have been with the Army of the Potomac for nearly three weeks—not in person, but in the affectionate remembrance, aye, enshrined in the heart of your eldest child. I am delighted to know that you are maternally watching over my precious ones at home. Take good care of them, and, with the blessing of God, we will soon resume our pleasant associations in New York. Believe me your devotedly attached son."

To his sons, Bruner, George, and Frank :

"ARTILLERY RESERVE, March 19, 1864.

"This is your letter from your papa. A little rough stool is my table, but it does almost as well as my study desks. How very often I think about you, my dear boys. When I see the soldiers drawn up in their evening parade and hear the drums beat, then I think about you and wish you were here to look upon these stirring scenes. When I get astride of a nice horse I think about you, and wish you were here to have a ride. When I lie upon my blanket at night I think about you, and pray our kind Heavenly Father to take good care of you during my absence.

"Yesterday afternoon we had a great '*scare*.' Word came that the rebels were advancing upon us. Sure enough, they were crossing the Rapidan River, the dividing line between the two armies. Orders came from headquarters to be ready to march at a moment's notice. Accordingly the soldiers packed their knapsacks, filled their haversacks with three days' rations, and for a while all was excitement. Papa thought he was in for it, but in God

was his trust. About seven o'clock the order to march was recalled. This morning the regiment is all ready. While I write fighting is going on. We can distinctly hear the cannons roar in the distance. Papa had almost made up his mind to leave this morning for Washington, but he thought, 'No, Monday is my time, and I will wait and trust in my Heavenly Father, who has always taken such good care of me.' How blessed it is, my boys, to love God and feel that He loves us. Then we are safe any where. I want you all to be good, and then all will be well.

"How sorry I was to hear of the accident which befell your little friend M—— S——. Almost killed! How near he went to heaven or to hell! I hope the former, for I trust he is trying, and now will try more than ever to be good. I want *my* boys to give God their hearts, so that if they suddenly die we may be able to say that they have certainly gone to heaven. Tell your precious mamma that I received a letter from her yesterday afternoon. Oh, how glad I was to get it! Tell your dear grandma, too, how much obliged I am for her sweet letter. Will you be glad to see me again? Papa feels as if he would give all of this State of Virginia to be with his family again. If all is well, I hope this time next Saturday to sit down in No. 263 West Thirty-fourth Street. But if the rebels should get me, it will only be a little longer. Let us pray our Heavenly Father, if He wills, to prevent this. Now, after you read this letter, go every one of you and give mamma one of your sweetest kisses, and tell her that it is straight from papa. Then go to little Beck and little Mamy, and give them each a nice kiss; then kiss one another, then kiss sister M——, then grandma, aunt Mary, and uncle John. That's all."

To his wife :

"COLUMBIA, Wednesday, March 23, 1864.

"I am thus far on my way home. Yesterday I left Washington in the seven A.M. train, passed through Baltimore, and reached Philadelphia at two o'clock. Had only time to hurry from one dépôt to the other, and at half-past two P.M. started for Columbia. Arrived at the old homestead about seven o'clock. Found the family in the sitting-room, gathered around the little table. There was our lovely little daughter, with her calm blue eyes and gentle, quiet face, and alongside little 'Streak of Sunshine,' with cheeks like roses in full bloom. I was an unexpected but most welcome visitor. The children clambered up on my knees, and I was one of the happiest men in the State of Pennsylvania. Sister and Will are very well and very happy. This morning the first thing my door was pushed open, and a sweet little voice said, 'Papa, it is time to get up.' I had had the best night's rest since

I left home. Looking out from the bed-clothes I saw a perfect little face. Will never looked prettier. He kept faithful watch while I dressed, and then acted as my escort down stairs. Sister is full of love, but not any more than her dear papa. With the exception of Davis, the family are very well. The children seem anxious to return with papa to New York. The grandparents and the aunt evidently would like to keep them longer in Columbia. It is in my heart to gratify the little folks and the old folks both, and I must wait for to-morrow to decide what is best.

"On Monday evening I received a Washington letter from yourself, Mary, G. S. Hare, and Southerland. Brother E. Scott was very fraternal. I preferred to stay with him rather than go by urgent invitation to the hospitable home of my old friend and class-leader, Charles Lane. On my arrival in Columbia, I received another letter from yourself. Thanks for these little messengers from home. I hope to see you on Friday. To-morrow morning I propose to start for Philadelphia, spend the afternoon in that city, and on Friday turn my face New-York-ward. Concerning appointments on the Sabbath, I would very gladly hear rather than be heard—but whether my people would acquiesce, I am not so sure. This I must leave until my return."

It was always a great trial to Mr. Cookman to be separated from his family. He had scarcely got settled upon his return from the army, when the physical condition of his children required that some of them, at least, should be taken to the homestead on the banks of the Susquehanna, and the others with the mother soon followed. We are indebted, however, to these separations for those familiar and tender letters to his wife and children which reveal so charmingly the family side of his character.

To his sons George and Frank :

"NEW YORK, June 24, 1864.

"You must not think that papa has forgotten you because he has neglected to write you a letter. Every day he thinks about his little George and Frank, and wonders how they are getting along. I hope that you are very obedient and kind to aunt Beckie and grandma, and all the rest. I trust that you never quarrel with one another. Remember, little brothers should be always full of love. You must not forget your prayers morning and evening. Never say bad words or associate with bad boys. If you hear a boy swear, turn your back upon him, and say he can not be my playmate or

companion any longer. Always go to Sunday-school, and remember to behave well in church. People around are looking at you, and expect good conduct from the sons of a minister. I am pleased to know that you go to school every day, and go so cheerfully. Give attention to your lessons, and learn as much and as fast as you can. Be very attentive and kind to uncle Cyrus. Do not climb up on him as you used to do, for that might give him pain in his wound. Run his errands. Do every thing you can to make him happy, for you know he is your noble, brave soldier uncle. When you are large boys or big men you will refer with pride to your patriot uncle, who was wounded in the service of his country.

"Yesterday *we*—that is, mamma, Brune, sister, Will, and myself—accompanied the Seventh Avenue Sabbath-school on their excursion to Staten Island. The day was warm, but we had a real nice time. Swings, football, copenhagen, and other sports, interested the little folks. No accident occurred, and we returned to the city about seven o'clock in the evening. I suppose you would like to know about your little brothers and sisters. Well, *Brune* is still very pale and thin, but I think a little better than he was. He is very anxious for the time to come when we shall go to Columbia, for he wants very much to see his little brothers again. *Sister* has been sick, but is better again. She has had her large doll fixed up, and is quite proud of it. She is a dear little girl. *Will* is still a little 'streak of sunshine'—is as fond of papa's study as ever. Both he and sister have new porte-monnaies. Will has about twelve cents, and sister six. He is perfectly delighted with his treasure. Beck Evans has taken a deep cold, which has fallen in her eyes. Poor dear little girl, she has all kinds of ailments and afflictions, but notwithstanding is very 'weenty.' Little Mary is a honey-drop. Kisses sweeter than ever. Now, Frank, don't your mouth water for a kiss? On the second Sabbath of July (10th) I expect to be in Harrisburg. Perhaps some time the week before I will bring mamma and the rest to Columbia. Will you be glad to see us? Now my letter is full. Good-bye. Give our love to all. Be good boys."

To his son Willie :

"NEW YORK, July 19, 1864.

"Did you ever receive a letter before? Now remember that this is all yours, so that when mamma has read it to you, you can fold it up and put it in the envelope again, and carry it about in your pocket, and say 'This is papa's letter to "Little Sunshine."' Won't that be splendid? How papa misses his little boy. The *study* is so quiet now; the chairs keep in their places; the old valise stays in the cupboard; no *whoop* to tell that the locomotive is coming; no *invitation* to go in the cars to Columbia; nobody

asks for my *lead-pencil* now; or for a sheet of *white paper* now; or for a *book with pictures in* now. When papa sits down at the table he is all alone. No little darling Will to sit close alongside and wait for his buttered bread, or perhaps for a little sip of papa's coffee, which you know is particularly nice. Don't you pity poor papa? Never mind. It won't be long. Two or three weeks, and then papa will get in the steam-cars again. The old '*locomoshs*' will go 'chu! chu! chu!' and after a while he will come to Columbia. Then he will look out of the car window, and there will be bright-eyed little Willie on the fence waving his white handkerchief, shouting, 'Hurrah, boys! hurrah! here comes my precious papa!' Won't that be splendid? But I hear my little boy say, 'What will you bring me?' *Kisses*—ever so many sugar-candy kisses. Don't you love my kisses? I am sure I love yours. I wish you were here to give me one of those real, ripe, sweet, juicy kisses that grow on your little red lips. Tell mamma that papa is right well. He has just been writing letters to uncle Frank and Edmund V—. This afternoon he expects to attend Dr. Palmer's meeting, and perhaps afterward ride out to Harlem and see grandma. Now, if little 'Streak of Sunshine' was along, we would go on board the *Tiger Lily*, and sail as far as High Bridge. Wouldn't that be splendid? I hope that while I am away you will be a first-rate boy. Never strike your dear little sister—no, indeed! Never quarrel with your little brothers, or pout or be disobedient to your precious mamma. At the table do you eat with your fingers?—no, indeed, but with your fork. Did you know it? William Wilberforce Cookman is a perfect little gentleman. When I get back to Columbia, I will ask mamma and aunt Beckie and grandma, and if they say you have been a good boy, then you shall have one of those nice, new, beautiful two-cent pieces. Now don't you laugh—it is so. I will put it in that fat little hand, and you shall feel—'it is *mine*.' Now I must close Willie's letter. When mamma gets through reading it, then give her a splendid kiss, and tell her that is from papa; and then go all around and give every one one of your best, and tell them all it is from your dear papa. Good-bye, my little darling."

To his wife :

"NEW YORK, 10 o'clock, Thursday night, 1864.

"I have just returned from Dr. Stryker's church. The national fast-day is over. It has for me been eminently profitable. With considerable sacrifice and self-denial, I remained to supervise these services, and I have been richly recompensed in my own experience. In the morning we had Dr. Stryker, who preached an excellent sermon to a large congregation. I



prayed and read the Scriptures. It was a delightful service. In the afternoon, at four o'clock, I had the large Bible-class room entirely filled (Mrs. D—— among the rest), and a precious hour it proved. In the evening I held forth in an address in Mr. Stryker's church. The audience-room was comfortably filled, and I enjoyed rather more than ordinary freedom in unfolding our duties and hopes as citizens in the present important and fearful crisis. To-morrow morning early I expect to start for Poughkeepsie, where I will probably spend the day. Then Saturday, then Sunday, then Monday, and, if the Lord will, my darling wife and beloved children. In *patience* I must possess my soul."

The following brief note affords evidence of the scrupulous fidelity with which Mr. Cookman always regarded the expectations of the children under his pastoral care.

To Mrs. W. B. Skidmore :

"December 27, 1864.

"We exceedingly regret that our Sabbath-school festival, which occurs this evening, will oblige us to ask a postponement of your visit until Thursday. The little ones, and larger ones too, expect to find us in the midst of our flock. We hope, however, Providence permitting, to enjoy your society on Thursday evening. Will you be kind enough to advise Sister B—— of this change? We hope it is not too late to wish you a *very happy Christmas*—happy in its memories, in its present experiences, and in its sweet hopes of seeing for ourselves that 'blessed Jesus' whose birth we so joyously commemorate."

To the Friday-afternoon meeting :

"TRINITY PARSONAGE, January 27, 1865.

"I should exceedingly delight to share with you the privileges of the Friday-afternoon meeting. As this is deemed impracticable, may I speak to you from the furnace of affliction—not a seven times heated furnace, nevertheless a furnace signalized by the presence of the Fourth, nay, the First, the fairest among ten thousand, and the One altogether lovely.

"Since the last Sabbath I have been realizing very specially the preciousness of perfect love. In the midst of pain and physical prostration, I have found beneath and around me the Everlasting Arms, while, as I have glanced into the future, I have not been startled or stirred by a single doubt or fear. Oh, how sweet has been the conviction! I have nothing to do now—all has been done by my blessed Saviour. I stand complete in Him. My heart

overflows with gratitude to the blessed Holy Spirit that has inducted me into the belief and experience of the doctrine of Christian holiness—a doctrine that is so sweet and satisfying both in sickness and in health. From this time I feel as if I should hold it more firmly, preach it more faithfully, love it more fully, labor for it more zealously.

“Dear friends, be assured of my Christian love. Divinity, as I feel, is the bond which unites our hearts together. We are one in Christ Jesus. Let us be faithful, that our precious spiritual privileges may be reduplicated on the other side of Jordan, where, with all the sanctified, we will eternally sing ‘Glory to the Lamb!’ Will you not sing at this afternoon? Sing it for me. I will join your chorus in my sick-room. *You* will not hear me, but *Jesus* will. Let us fill his ear with our songs, and his heart with our joy.”

To the Friday-afternoon meeting :

“April 7, 1865.

“I very much regret my inability to be with you this afternoon. It is for me a serious disappointment. I must, however, yield to the wishes of a dear friend, and accompany the remains of his only child to their last resting-place. Suffer just one word of testimony—*My mercies abound*. My chief, my overshadowing mercy is *Jesus, my sanctification*. He has been unspeakably precious during the present week. Oh, how delighted I should be to sit in the midst of you this afternoon, and hear you again sing His praise, and speak of His love, and implore His presence and blessing! This can not be; nevertheless we will praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that is to come. God bless you all with an unprecedented blessing. In haste.”

Before leaving Trinity, Mr. and Mrs. Cookman suffered a deep affliction in the death of little Rebecca, a child three years and six months old. She was absent from home when she died. This was the first time the Destroyer had invaded their family circle. The father thus touchingly alludes to their bereavement.

To Mrs. Skidmore :

“Monday evening, April 10, 1865.

“We have this afternoon received a telegram acquainting us with the death of our dear little daughter Rebecca. She breathed her last to-day about half-past twelve. We were exceedingly shocked at the announcement, for, although we had heard of her sickness, we had no idea that she was

seriously or dangerously ill. To-morrow morning we leave for Columbia. The *little representative of Central Church* is the first taken from our domestic circle. God has constituted her a *glorified link* to unite Central Church in our thoughts to Heaven. Oh, how real and blessed the eternal home seems this evening ! My dear wife is overwhelmed with sorrow, nevertheless she submits uncomplainingly to this providence of our faithful God.

"We need not solicit your sympathies and prayers, for four years of intimate Christian friendship assures us that your large, noble, and affectionate heart will be afflicted in our affliction. God bless you forever for your kindness to and love for two of His unworthiest servants. Of course we can not enjoy the congenial circle that will be associated at your hospitable home on Wednesday evening."

To his sister, Miss Mary B. Cookman :

"We have just been placing in the cold grave another beautiful gem, to develop and re-appear in the promised resurrection. Our sweet little Rebecca is now in the special keeping of Him who looks down and watches all her dust till He shall bid it rise. I have many times sought to comfort bereaved parents. God, by this providence, has been better preparing me for this part of my ministerial duty. Our precious darling was incomparably more beautiful in death than during life. Losing all her baby-like look, she presented the appearance of a lovely little girl—her features regular and perfect, her face little wasted, and indescribably sweet in its expression ; indeed, her exceeding beauty in death was a matter of universal remark. I felt to-day what a trial it is to bury one who is 'bone of your bone and flesh of your flesh.'

"Returning from the grave, the heart-stricken mother could not restrain the audible 'Farewell, my precious darling !' I thought, 'Yes, until we meet again in a tearless and deathless realm.' Oh, how precious the word 'Comforter' is to me this afternoon ! The blessed Third Person comes unusually near, and comforts me with the comfort of God. I have no doubt that this experience is in answer to the prayers of those who are very dear to me."

Thus closed the pastorate at Trinity, and with it Mr. Cookman's ministry in New York. The General Conference, at its session of 1864, in Philadelphia, had extended the time that a minister could be appointed to any one charge from two to three successive years ; but, for reasons which seemed sufficient

to all concerned, he declined a re-appointment for the third year, and accepted a pressing invitation to return to Philadelphia. He and the Trinity people parted on the most agreeable terms, and among them to this day no name is more revered for the fragrant memories which cluster about it than his.

## CHAPTER XVI.

RETURN TO PHILADELPHIA.—PASTORATE OF THE SPRING GARDEN STREET CHURCH.—AMONG THE CHILDREN.

THE immediate cause of the transfer of Mr. Cookman again (1865) to the Philadelphia Conference so soon after leaving it for New York, was that his services were earnestly sought for the new church which had been erected in Philadelphia on Spring Garden Street. Several of his former parishioners at Green Street were active men in erecting the new church, and they felt that no one was so well qualified to build up the new charge, to give it consistency and stability, as their former beloved pastor.

As explanatory of his views and feelings upon this and like occasions, I give the correspondence between the committee of the Spring Garden Street Church and himself in relation to the matter.

Messrs. A. W. Rand, George Milliken, Thomas P. Campbell, John W. Clark, and Charles B. Barrett, Committee, to the Rev. Alfred Cookman :

“SPRING GARDEN STREET CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, }  
September 13, 1864. }

“Inasmuch as the time is rapidly approaching when it must be determined who shall be our next pastor, we all naturally feel very solicitous that he who shall be sent to us shall be one who will not only be acceptable to the people, but who will, by the blessing of God, be the means of advancing and building up the spiritual and temporal interests of our Church.

“We believe that *you* possess all the qualifications to make you thus eminently useful among us ; and at a meeting of the Board of Trustees, held last evening, we were appointed a committee to confer with you and solicit your advice.

"Are you aware of any obstacles which would be likely to prevent our consummating an arrangement with you? Have you any personal objections to serving us in the capacity of pastor?"

"We take leave to add that we believe there is but one wish and opinion in the Church and congregation upon this subject, and shall await your answer with very great interest."

The Rev. Alfred Cookman to Messrs. Charles B. Barrett, A. W. Rand, and others:

"NEW YORK, September 30, 1864.

"I am in receipt of your official communication. It came perhaps a fortnight since, and should have been answered sooner, but indeed I felt as if I wanted a little time for careful thought and special prayer respecting a step of this kind. The changes of a Methodist itinerant are so frequent and necessary that we are apt to think he need not have much difficulty in deciding such matters—but in my own case (and I suppose this is a general experience) I am so painfully anxious to keep in my providential path that I often hesitate, wanting to be fully persuaded in my own mind. You ask for a full expression of my views and feelings respecting the pastorate of your Church for the next Conference year.

"I reply frankly and sincerely, there is no unwillingness in my own mind to return to Philadelphia, and serve you in the relation referred to. Many, perhaps most of your members, are dear friends, with whom I have been pleasantly situated in past years. They know that I am only a simple, plain, and, I hope, faithful minister of Jesus Christ; and if they could be satisfied with me, a very ordinary servant of the Church, I certainly ought to be more than satisfied with them—so true and liberal, sympathizing and affectionate. These are my feelings.

"Now for my circumstances. Next spring I shall have been at Trinity, my present charge, two years. A number of the friends have expressed the desire and expectation that I remain with them the third year. My presiding elder has conversed with me on the subject, saying that while he will not throw a difficulty in my way if I conclude to return to Philadelphia, still he very much hopes that I will remain in the New York Conference. Thinking that the old two-years' law might be the rule in the matter of appointments next spring, the friends at Poughkeepsie have approached me on the subject of their next pastorate. Seventh Street, New York, and Hanson Place, Brooklyn, have also spoken to me for next year. I refer to these matters not, of course, to show that my humble labors are in demand, but to explain my perplexity in deciding what is my providential path, and

also to illustrate what kind feelings I must break through in leaving this part of the work.

"Now what shall I do? I wish to do right. Your city is a desirable place of residence for me. Your Conference is my cradle Conference. Your Church will be one of the most pleasant appointments in the connection—a thousand times better than I deserve. These are interesting, and yet to me minor matters. I think my greatest concern is respecting my usefulness. Can I accomplish most for Christ and the Church in the Philadelphia or New York Conference? I place myself in your hands and with the authorities of the Church. Bishop Simpson is among you, and, while he is concerned for the success of your enterprise, I believe he is interested for me. He has always allowed me to regard him with the love and approach him with the confidence of a son; and I shall respect and be satisfied with his decision.

"When any definite conclusion is reached let me know, for it will be but just to advise my Trinity friends, who will thus have time to make their arrangements for the next Conference year.

"I have written very freely and frankly. And now, thanking you for this most emphatic and practical expression of your kindness and confidence, allow me to subscribe myself as ever your brother in the blessed Jesus."

The authorities having determined upon Mr. Cookman's transfer to Philadelphia, he hastened to the session of his old Conference at Harrisburg. Thence he wrote to his wife:

"HARRISBURG, March, 1865.

"I would have written yesterday, but duties multiplied, engrossing all my time; among the rest the responsibility and trial of preaching last night. Oh! it was a heavy burden, but I took it up in the name of my Master, *and was helped*. I feel very humble and quiet and grateful this morning. We have commenced an eight o'clock prayer-meeting this morning; the season was very blessed. You will be interested in every step of my progress, and so I will go back. On Tuesday night I left Philadelphia with quite a number of ministerial brethren. Comfortably ensconced in a berth of the sleeping-car, I dozed until Harrisburg was announced; proceeding to our friend C.'s, I met a most affectionate reception. The brethren at Conference were very cordial; business was rapidly dispatched, and a place assigned me on one or two committees, and at the close of the morning session my appointment for evening was announced. During the day I met friends in every direction; they were as cordial as though I had been their pastor last year. God has given us a strong hold upon the hearts of this people.

“The duty of preaching last night involved a terrible trial. I would rather have taken severe lashings ; *but I dared* not refuse—it seemed to me that it might be in the order of God ; and what is my will in comparison with the Divine will. My Heavenly Father knows how simple and pure was my motive. I *had a good time*—the brethren say great good was accomplished ; but this morning I feel like a whipped child, indisposed to look any body in the face. My soul, however, is full of tender love for Jesus ; I cling to Him with increasing affection and devotion. ‘Happy, if Thou, my Lord, approve.’ Pray for me : I want that this Conference time may be a Pentecostal *season for us all*.”

Mr. Cookman’s welcome was, if possible, even heartier than on the occasion of his return from Pittsburgh. It is doubtful if any friends are like the heart’s first friends. His early associates were now more deeply attached to him than ever before. His re-entrance into their ranks was hailed with delight ; and he, as was natural, felt again the tranquilizing sense of home, which gave him a new spring for his chosen work. The reception which the people would give him could not be questioned in view of his popularity when stationed in the city, and the enthusiastic greetings which always met him on his occasional visits. His brother George wrote in the winter of 1863 to his mother after one of these brief sojourns :

“We enjoyed Alfred’s visit hugely. He is a prime fellow, and his trip over here was productive of great good. I never saw such a sight as the Monday evening he preached at Green Street—altar crowded, and some thirty or forty in the congregation rose for prayers. We are going to have him back to Philadelphia some of these days.”

The Spring Garden charge presented the most favorable conditions for Mr. Cookman’s resumption of the Christian ministry as a pastor in the great city of the Keystone State. The new, capacious, and elegant church, with every modern facility for effective Church work, was admirably located to accommodate the growing population in the north-west section of the city. It was thoroughly manned by official boards full of energy, zeal,



and liberality. Its success was assured from the beginning. The new pastor's name was a tower of strength. The pews immediately after the dedication were rapidly taken, and it entered promptly upon a career of usefulness such as has been hardly surpassed by any charge in any of our great centres.

Among the features of the Church was its large and well-conducted Sunday-school. No minister ever more highly appreciated the Sunday-school as an arm of pastoral success than Mr. Cookman. He was in the truest sense in all places a part of his school, regarding himself as responsible for a close contact with it and a most intimate knowledge of its workings. He felt that the same heart must send its pulsations through the whole congregation, composed alike of adults and children. His habit was to know and to be known to teachers and scholars, to meet them on the most familiar terms, and so to inspire them with affection as to be able to utilize them as instruments and as materials for the incessant supply of workers in the Church and additions to its members. The secret of his great power with children was his love for them. This the children could always see and feel, and hence he invariably enlisted their sympathies. He was one of the most successful talkers to youth America has known. His tact in awakening and keeping attention, by presenting truth under the drapery of description, or in the form of illustration, or by some apt question, or by the flash of gentle humor, or by a tone of solemn appeal, was really consummate. Who ever knew an audience of children to tire under him? Who has not seen congregations of them, wearied by some prosy homilist who had preceded him, suddenly electrified as he rose before them, and his look of familiar sweetness and voice of melody caught eye and ear! He was never happier than when before the upturned faces of his "little brothers and sisters," as he loved to call his youthful auditory, or when, surrounded by a throng of them, they plucked familiarly at his coat to catch his notice, or when, seated at the

fireside of his own or some other Christian home, the boys and girls drew about him to listen to his naïve and simple stories.

It is said of the celebrated John Charlier Gerson, who was Chancellor of the University of Paris, and the theological leader of the reformatory councils of Pisa (1409) and Constance (1415), that, after taking a prominent part in all the great questions of his age, he retired to a convent at Lyons, and found his chief delight in the instruction of children.\* Alfred Cookman was never greater than when in his humility he stooped to be the companion and friend of Christ's little ones. Talking one day with a lad of one of his charges, he said, "Willie, do you pray?" "Yes, Mr. Cookman," was the reply. "When you pray, what do you pray for? You know we must have an object when we pray." "Why, sir, I have a very bad temper, and I pray to God to help me to overcome it." "And does He help you?" "Yes, sir, I think He does." Such was the affection, the directness, with which he approached the children and youth of his parishes.

It may not be amiss here to present at some length in his own words his views of the relation of "the pastor and the Sunday-school." The report, though not full, is very suggestive :

"A practical talk on the relation of the pastor to the Sunday-school was made by the Rev. Alfred Cookman.

"He did not design discussing the theory of this relation, but to give his views of what it should be, illustrating by his own experience in trying to carry out his convictions on this subject.

"1. A pastor ought to spend a part of every Sabbath in the midst of his school ; be intimately interested and identified with it. He should, if possible, know the name, secure the confidence, and engage the affections of every child in his charge. To further this, he may pass around the school from time to time quietly, unostentatiously, taking the hand of the teacher, smiling upon or speaking to the class, or to members of it, by name, as, 'Brother Charley, I hope that you are very well to-day;' or, 'Harry, my little brother, I trust that you are enjoying your lesson—do you find it diffi-

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\* Lange's Comm. on Matt., p. 323.

cult?' or, 'Mary, my little sister, you must not fail to give God your heart;' or, 'Lizzie, I am hoping that, after a while, I shall have the pleasure of meeting you in heaven, as I now have the pleasure of meeting you in Sabbath-school.' Thus the presence of the pastor will be greeted as a living, moving blessing, and as he crosses the threshold of the room little eyes will brighten, and hearts overflow with loving gladness.

"The pastor should also recognize his scholars in the street and at their homes, as well as in the school-room. The speaker had charged his children to run up to him and take him by the hand in the street, and to make themselves known whenever and wherever they should meet him.

"2. A second suggestion is that the pastor should preach steadily or regularly to the children of his Church, members of his Sabbath-school. This is not to say that he should monopolize the superintendent's time by remarks, but have fixed periods when, after due preparation, he shall speak a word of loving counsel, warning, or encouragement. 'After due preparation,' mark, for there can hardly be a greater mistake than to suppose that this exercise requires little or no preparation. Dr. Newton, that prince of children's preachers, had told him that he devoted as much time and labor to his 'children's sermons' as to those which he prepared for the great congregation. The reason why it has come to be a received truth that so few are adapted to talk to children, is because so few take the time and thought necessary to *prepare* themselves for the work. Then, after thorough preparation, they must put themselves in sympathy with their youthful hearers, and should aim rather to *talk* to them than 'address' them.

"In connection with the service called 'Children's Sermon,' Mr. Cookman has found it advantageous to encourage the older scholars to submit to him, the Sabbath after they have heard it, a report of his sermon, which may be longer or shorter as they may please. He receives it, takes it home, carefully examines and corrects it, marks it 'very good,' 'excellent,' 'good,' according to its merits, and signs it carefully, 'Your affectionate pastor,' appending his name. The report is then returned to the scholar. The idea has proved useful in several very obvious ways.

"3. As a third suggestion, a pastor would find it helpful to him and his school to have a week-day meeting of a children's class, over which he could have supervision in the matter of Christian duty and walk. In most of his charges, Mr. Cookman had held such a class on Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. Punctuality is insisted upon, the roll called, and absentees marked. If a scholar is absent two or three weeks consecutively, without an excuse, his name is stricken from the roll. After singing and prayer, and singing again, the pastor asks a few questions bearing on practical religion, as,

whether they have remembered to read their Bibles daily, and pray to God morning and night since they last met, the answers being given by raising the hand. In such an exercise the speaker had been impressed with the fact that so few of his scholars were accustomed to pray *twice* a day. They are then encouraged to stand up in their place and recite a passage of Scripture on a topic announced the week before, or one having the name of Jesus in it, or one beginning with A, B, C, D, etc., going regularly through the alphabet. An opportunity is then given to the pastor to reply personally to the scholars, giving a short word to each on the text they have recited perhaps, and then general remarks to the class for fifteen or twenty minutes, with the aid of the blackboard, concluded with singing. These exercises last three quarters of an hour, never exceed an hour. Tracts and children's papers and reward cards are then distributed, and the class separates. Each child is taken by the hand on parting, and some such sentiment expressed as, 'I hope you will be found obedient at home, kind to little brothers and sisters during the week,' etc.

"4. As a last suggestion, the pastor should be concerned to organize a Bible-class, composed of his teachers and members of the larger classes who might choose to join it. This class may meet during the week to study their next Sunday's lesson. They had organized one in the speaker's charge, which promised most important results. It meets on Saturday evening. The first hour is devoted to the lesson in asking and answering questions, using the question-book as a guide, but not confining themselves to it. This exercise is made a free, familiar interchange of thought and inquiry. The next half-hour of one week is devoted to teachers' experiences, the relation of encouragements and discouragements, or to prayer over the work. On the next week this half-hour is given to reading by the pastor of short biographical or other sketches of religious interest, making it eminently practical. On the third meeting two or three short essays, written by scholars, are read. On the fourth, after the regular exercises, committees appointed by the pastor on various subjects, such as sick and delinquent members; on new members; the prayer-meetings (which the young men and young women conduct separately); on sick and afflicted Church members; on tract distribution, etc., all make their reports. Thus an interest is taken in all the work of the Church, and the pastor is training helpers all around him. The whole secret of his success lies in some such efforts, by which his flock, young and old, shall be kept employed in the Master's vineyard.

"For a pastor to neglect the command, 'Feed my lambs,' and thus to turn aside from a field 'white to the harvest,' is to indicate a strange unfitness for the very work to which he ought to believe himself divinely called beyond any question."

Several letters of Mr. Cookman to his children have already been given. I insert others here, written about this date, as illustrative of his manner of dealing with his own children, and as pertinent to the above remarks. His children were summing at or near Columbia.

To his eldest son, Bruner :

"You will be glad to receive a letter from papa. He thinks a great deal about his little boy, and hopes you will not get sick again. I suppose you would like to have your velocipede and little carriage in Columbia. As, however, we could not very well send them so far, they will have to remain, and you can enjoy them when you return to the city. Grandma Cookman often talks about you. She will be glad to see you again. You must be a good boy, obey mamma, love your brothers, take care of sister Puss, read your Bible every day, pray to your Heavenly Father, and then you will grow to be a first-rate man."

To his son George :

"This letter is for 'Posse kin,' as mamma sometimes calls you. I expect you are having an elegant time at grandpa's—rolling your hoop, flying your kite, playing with Rollo, and helping grandma to make garden. You must not eat up all the gooseberries and cherries and currants before papa comes to Columbia ; if you do, papa will lay you down on the floor, and he will tickle you—oh, how he will tickle you ! I hope that you are a very good boy, that you obey every thing that aunt Beckie tells you, that you say your prayers every morning and evening, that you never quarrel with little Bruner, and that you keep away from the railroad and river. Would you not like to see the little sister ? She is a bouncing, beautiful girl, and begins to crow like a chicken. Frank Simpson talks a great deal about Bruner and George ; he says, 'Boys gone in the cars—gone to Columbia.' When papa and mamma come they will bring Frank and the little sister. Then you will take Frank in the garden and show him the flowers, won't you ? and you will put little Annie in a carriage and take her riding. Then papa will get a big carriage and a live horse, and with his little boys he will drive out in the country. Won't we have a good time ? Now remember to be a good, obedient boy, and papa will bring you a pretty present. Give a kiss to grandma, grandpa, and aunt Rebecca, and all the rest. When they will let you see that new baby at uncle Aby's, you must ask him to let you give it a kiss for papa, and let it

be one of your very best kisses. Papa and mamma send you a *locomotive* full of love."

To his boys :

"You will be glad I know to hear from us. After leaving you on Monday I proceeded in the direction of Philadelphia, reaching home about six o'clock in the evening. I found all well. The next day we started in the noon train, and arrived in Columbia early in the afternoon. The children were very much surprised and delighted to see us. Will is stout and healthy. Sister is sunburnt and thin. Mary is fat and saucy. We took to sister, Maze, and Mame, wax dolls and paper dolls, and to Will, Alfred, and Harry we gave knives, arrows, and blow-guns. Yesterday I rode out to see the new camp-ground, which is about twelve miles from Columbia. The grove is very beautiful. Aunt Beckie will have a tent. The friends are expecting about one hundred and twenty tents. I shall take sister and Will some day and let them see a camp-meeting. Uncle Abe's stable is nearly finished, and both his horses are here. Their names are Frank and Mike. They are strong, noble bays. In a few days he expects to have his carriage, and then look out for splendid rides. I hope you continue very good boys. Remember to do as uncle John or cousin Emmy require. Be polite at the table; make as little noise as possible; do not go in the way of danger; keep away from the machines and from the horses' feet; keep your clothing tidy; be sure not to quarrel; read your Bible; say your prayers; resolve to be just as good in the absence as in the presence of your parents. We desire to hear from you, so that you must remember to write every week. I suppose you are having a grand time hunting eggs, picking blackberries, digging calamus, riding horses, and helping cousin Davy in the harvest-field. Get all the enjoyment you can, and then be ready to go back to school and *study like nailers*."

To his daughter Mary :

"DEAR LITTLE HONEY SISTER,—How I would like to have you in my arms just now. I would give you a splendid squeeze, and then I would kiss those dear little cheeks. Papa often looks into your crib and then thinks of his precious daughter. Won't you come to Philadelphia some of these days, and sleep alongside of your darling papa? To-day I was looking at your basket-cradle in which you rock your dolls. When you come back to the city papa will get you a new doll for your cradle; but you must be a very good little girl. Do not eat any green grapes. You may jump rope, and sew with your '*needa*,' and play with your '*yabbit*,' but you must not get sick. Now give me one of your best kisses and bid me good-night."

To his older sons :

"Bruner's letter came to hand this morning. We were glad to learn that you were quite well and enjoying yourselves. You must be very good boys during your stay in Columbia. Make as little noise and trouble as possible. Grandma and grandpa are both old, and therefore can not bear as much as they once could. You must try and remember this, and when you are in the house talk in subdued tones and sit quietly in your chairs. I think you ought to take a part of every day for reading. If all study and no play makes Jack a dull boy, then all play and no study makes Jack a very good-for-nothing boy. Select some interesting book, read more or less every day, and when I come to Columbia you can each one report the number of pages you have read, for I shall certainly ask the question. Do not quarrel with one another ; such conduct is disgraceful, and especially between brothers. This spirit often leads to blows, and blows to serious injuries, and even death. Nothing could grieve me so much as to know that my boys did not feel kindly or affectionately toward each other. Always be gentle and patient and affectionate in your conversation and sports and intercourse.

"Another thing—never forget that you are young Christians, members of the Church. The eyes of others are upon you. I do not suppose that you would tell falsehoods or say bad words, or take what did not belong to you. But remember that angry tempers and angry words are inconsistent with the Christian character. You have not left your religion in Philadelphia, but taken it with you. Let it influence you to *read your Bible every day, to pray three times a day*, and to go to class-meeting every week. Ask aunt Beckie if she will not take you with her ; and though it may be a trial—a great trial—yet for the sake of your dear Saviour consent to the trial, and resolve to attend a class-meeting every week. In this matter take your father's advice. He knows what is best, for he has been through all your experiences. Read this letter over and over again, think of and remember the advice we have given. *Be quiet as possible, read a little every day, don't quarrel, act like little Christians, go to class-meeting.* About going down the country, we will see when I go to Columbia. This morning we are all pretty well. The baby, who was quite sick all day yesterday, seems better. This is probably owing to the agreeable change in the weather. Mamma says that when it suddenly becomes cool you must not forget to put on thicker clothing. Will scalded his foot this morning, and for a while was a lame and crying little soldier. But petroleum and flour have cured him so far that he is now out of doors playing. How is little sister Puss ? Let every brother give her two kisses for me. I am glad she was pleased with her book. Of course she will read it all through, and be able to tell us all about it when we meet."

To his son George :

"How are you getting along? I hope, as Frank would say, 'berry well.' I thought when I saw you that there was not enough flesh on that little body of yours. See if you can not get right fat by the time I go to Columbia. Look here, George, do you know who can speak,

" 'From Greenland's icy mountains,  
From India's coral strand? "

Yes, you do. It is a little fellow just about your size, and that looks just as you do. Now the boy that can speak as well as you do, ought not to be noisy or rude or disobedient. Do you think he ought? I want you to be one of the best boys in all the world. You know you are named after grandpa Cookman, and he was one of the best men that could be found."

A meeting for the promotion of holiness was promptly established at Spring Garden; but for sufficient reasons Mr. Cookman allowed it to be removed to the Methodist Book-rooms, on Arch Street. He by general consent was continued the leader of the meeting while he remained in the city. This "Friday-afternoon meeting" has become an institution, and is resorted to by persons of all denominations from far and near. Mr. Cookman also frequented, as when previously in Philadelphia, the meetings under the conduct of Mrs. Keen.

A letter written about midsummer of this year makes pleasing reference to this and kindred meetings, to the success of the new Church enterprise, and withal breathes the saintly devotion and genuine friendship so characteristic of the man.

To Mrs. Skidmore, of New York :

" PHILADELPHIA, July 11, 1865.

"How much obliged I was for your kind and very welcome letter. When the pen can contribute so much to the happiness of our friends, especially *ministerial friends*, who need the inspiration of affectionate words; when it so consciously builds us up in our purposes and faith and holiness, are we not responsible for its use? You will feel, I trust, the force of this sincere appeal, and by your continuance in well-doing earn the valuable commendation, '*She hath done what she could.*' Our pleasant fellowship in the Central Church pastorate, and subsequently at Trinity, furnishes even now



a feast of memory. As the iron *wheel* in its revolutions has interfered with this communion, the next best thing is friendly correspondence. If we can not enjoy together one of *our old-time talks*, thank God, we have the ability and disposition to make a less satisfactory medium tributary to our Christian friendship. Meanwhile, aye, and all the while, we are one in Christ our Head. It is with me a most inspiring thought that, although separated in person from many of my cherished friends, yet our spirits constantly commingle in God. We are every day in the same presence, talking to the same Father, sharing the same precious influences. Truly mountains rise and oceans roll to sunder such in vain.

"With yourself I place an increasing appreciation on those friends whose hearts have been constituted the abode of the sanctifying Spirit. Their words instruct me, their example stimulates me, their influence lingers with me. They not only contribute to my purest joys in this world, but are enriching me for all eternity. Next to Jesus in my own heart, I am unutterably grateful for Jesus in my friends. The circle that were associated in the Friday-afternoon meeting! oh, how vividly they live in my remembrance—how they still seem to strengthen and comfort me with their testimonies and prayers! Around that room and around those friends there gathers an unearthly glory. As I review those rich privileges, I sometimes find myself singing,

"And if our fellowship below  
In *Jesus* was so sweet,  
What heights of rapture shall we know  
When round His throne we meet."

"I enjoy our Philadelphia means of grace, but as yet it seems to me that we have not struggled as near the eternal throne as we were accustomed to get in those memorable meetings.

"You will regret to learn that our beloved friend Andrew is unusually feeble. About two weeks since he broke down utterly in the midst of his Sabbath-morning sermon. The friends at Trinity are very kind in their concern for his welfare. It is to be hoped that his annual rest and recreation will entirely restore him. Mrs. Keen is enjoying the society of Sister Lankford, who has been here about two weeks. Unfortunately for myself, I have been absent from the Tuesday meeting both times when she has been present. Thus I have missed her kind, sweet face, her gentle words, her precious spirit. I am hoping, however, this afternoon to meet her under those pleasant circumstances, and be refreshed as aforetime by her clear, simple, and unctuous testimony.

"You have doubtless been informed respecting the great success of our

Church enterprise. The day of dedication was marked by the most decided interest and the most satisfactory success. Bishop Simpson and Dr. Durbin both preached with very much more than their ordinary power. General Grant,\* without invitation, gave us his presence. The collections amounted to \$15,000, which leaves a very small indebtedness. All the pews on the lower floor, except two, have been rented, and some in the gallery. The income from rentals and premiums this year will approach \$10,000. Not unto us, not unto us, but unto our kind Heavenly Father we give all the glory. Will you not remember us with the sincerest love to all our dear friends in New York that you may meet? If we are dear to any of them, I am sure they are all unspeakably dear to us. Tell any of them who may be interested to know that I still joyously accept Jesus as my perfect Saviour."

The first year of the pastorate at Spring Garden was one of solid and abiding usefulness. There is no record which acquaints us with the details of the devoted pastor's labors, but the minutes of the Conference show increase in all departments.

As evidence of the high esteem in which the pastor and his wife were held, the congregation, on the 6th of March, 1866, the fifteenth anniversary of their marriage, gave them a "crystal wedding." Their home on Wallace Street was crowded with the members of the congregation, who brought with them many tasteful articles as mementoes of the occasion. A presentation speech was made to the happy pair by Mr. Alexander Irwin, to which Mr. Cookman replied in his usually felicitous style. He was much moved while he spoke, and at the close called upon the company to sing, "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow," and then offered prayer.

Mr. Cookman never appeared to greater advantage than amid those scenes, when he was surrounded by the company of his friends, drawn together in honor of himself, or of some friend, or for the advancement of the social culture of the

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\* It was then expected that General Grant would settle in Philadelphia, and the Trustees of the Church had offered him a pew.

Church. He was commonly the central attraction of all such gatherings, not so much by his official station as by the charm of his person and character—handsome, dignified, and affable, he moved among the circles which he frequented with a modest grace, an instinctive recognition of the claims of others, a kindly salutation for every one, an evident appreciation of all that is best in his fellow-beings, which, while it showed him to be a man of

“Cheerful yesterdays, and confident to-morrows,”

also made it manifest to all that the source of his cheerfulness and of his friendship was deep in the springs of a pure nature.

Mr. Cookman's close sympathy with the Young Men's Christian Association during his former residence in Philadelphia will be remembered. He shows himself again on their platform, and speaks in the following timely and earnest words :

“Ecclesiastical history tells us of one of the ancient Christians who, when summoned before the tribunal where he was to receive his sentence of death, was asked, ‘What is thy name?’ He immediately responded, ‘I am a Christian.’ ‘What is thy occupation?’ He answered, ‘I am a Christian.’ ‘What is thy native country?’ He answered, ‘I am a Christian.’ ‘Who were thy ancestors?’ He answered, ‘I am a Christian.’ And to all the inquiries he responded consistently in the words, ‘I am a Christian.’ Sir, it is with a feeling akin to this that I appear upon your platform to-night—not as an American, not as a Methodist, not as a sectarian, Mr. President—I am a Christian. I glory in this worthy distinction; and in the presence of men and angels I announce the fact, ‘I am a Christian’—a humble member, an unworthy representative of the Young Men's Christian Association of the City of Philadelphia.

“Allow me, sir, to congratulate you and the friends of this worthy enterprise upon the brilliant and truly inspiring scene which greets our vision and crowns our anniversary. Certainly these Christian laborers are encompassed about with a great cloud of witnesses. Look at them sitting in these boxes, occupying this lower floor and yonder gallery—filling the entire house, making it appear almost like an ancient amphitheatre, which, during the progress of the Olympic games, would be crowded in every part, causing the place to look like a living, breathing structure. It shows how dear to the heart of every Christian is the cause of Christianity, and the welfare of every

instrumentality intended to promote the interests of religion. These young men shall rise up like a race of young giants, showing themselves mighty in pulling down the strongholds of the wicked one. Now we have in the midst of us the Ark of the Covenant. Upon our banners are inscribed the words, 'Christ and Him crucified.' This is the motto under which we successfully battle. It is true, we still want the baptism of fire—that fire which shall constantly burn in our hearts, that shall glow in our countenances, kindle upon our tongues, and shine in our lives.

"Mr. President, I was greatly excited by the cordial welcome you extended to these delegates, hailing as they do from the North, South, East, and West. Only a week since I was in the city of Pittsburgh, and spent there one of the happiest evenings of my life. That such may be the case with you all to-night is my earnest wish. But a few years have elapsed since the veterans of 1812, hailing from almost every state in the Union, assembled in yonder hall on Chestnut Street, where more than eighty-three years ago there was prepared for publication to the world the memorable Declaration of American Independence. Finding the room too small for the number present, they adjourned to the Chinese Museum, which afforded them more spacious accommodations. At the second organization it was ascertained that some of the delegates were absent. The New York delegation was every moment expected. Soon the stentorian voice of the door-keeper was heard, and the shout of the 'New York Delegation' resounded throughout the building. That vast audience sprang upon their feet, and made the edifice literally vocal with their shouts of enthusiastic welcome. The Baltimore veterans, coming in immediately after, were received with the wildest shouts of enthusiastic joy. And now, when the good soldiers of Jesus Christ are coming from the battles of our world to sit down in a convention that shall never adjourn *sine die*, an angel at one door, with shouts of joy, will announce the names of the Young Men's Christian Association of New York; another angel, at another door, will announce the Young Men's Christian Association of Troy; another the names of the associations of Baltimore, Germantown, and a thousand other places, all coming to mingle together in the Paradise of God. May God grant such may be the case, and that we may all be united in a bond of union that shall never know dissolution."

## CHAPTER XVII.

SPRING GARDEN STREET CHURCH.—CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE COLORED RACE.—VACATION AT CAMP-MEETINGS.

THE session of this Conference of 1866 over, Mr. Cookman hastened to the help of his brother John, who was stationed in Poughkeepsie, New York. He found him in the midst of an extensive revival, but greatly prostrated in health; and although he was himself just out of an arduous winter's work, he could not refrain from entering earnestly into the work on his brother's hands.

To his wife :

“POUGHKEEPSIE, Monday, March 26.

\* \* \* “We found John in bed, a victim of diphtheria and great nervous prostration. Last Wednesday the doctor was very much alarmed. Yesterday morning early, and again in the afternoon, he had very bad spells. This morning, however, he seems better, and we hope will recover rapidly. His people are earnest and united in the prayers for the preservation of his life, which seems to them exceedingly valuable. His labors have been singularly blessed. It is estimated that nearly three hundred have professed to experience religion, among whom are a large number of heads of families and strong, stalwart young men. The end is not yet.

“I preached yesterday morning on the cloud of witnesses. After the sermon the altar was surrounded by gentlemen and ladies, who proposed to join the Church on probation. In the afternoon we had a prayer-meeting, with an altar full of penitents. In the evening I preached on ‘Ye will not come,’ etc. The altar was again filled with mourners, and some occupied the front seats. This morning, and every morning at nine o'clock, a meeting, largely attended, is held in the lecture-room. I preach to-night, to-morrow night, and perhaps on Wednesday night. John has not been out of his bed since last Tuesday, so that he is entirely laid aside. The friends interpret my presence as a providential interposition. If you need me before Thursday, *telegraph*, and I will be forthcoming at the earliest moment, but, unless there should be some emergency demanding my presence, I reckon I will

stay till Thursday. I have the prospect of incessant labor while I remain here, but this work shall make my heart rejoice, and 'spend the remnant of my days.'"

The successful close of the late civil war, it will be remembered, entailed upon the nation problems of reconstruction second only in importance and difficulty to that of maintaining the unbroken authority of the general Government. The chief problem was the settlement of the relations of the freed colored race to the new order of things. The negro was free—he could not be again reduced to slavery. Should he advance in the essential conditions of freedom to the possession of those civil rights without the exercise of which liberty is but a name? Such was the question which in 1866 forced itself upon the true lovers of the country and of humanity for a speedy and practical solution.

It can not be denied that the first stage of transition from bondage to freedom was to the colored people of the South a period of fearful trial and suffering. "The reaction which followed at the waters of strife, upon the exultation of the passage of the Red Sea, has been fitly described as the likeness of the reaction which, from the days of Moses downward, has followed on every great national emancipation—on every just and beneficent revolution—when the 'evils it caused are felt, and the evils which it removed are felt no longer.'"<sup>\*</sup> Many of the worst results of emancipation, which the enemies of the slaves had predicted and their friends had feared, fell upon them. They wandered about in multitudes, without food, clothing, or shelter. Their irresponsible and defenseless condition exposed them to sickness and immorality. They were tempted to drunkenness, theft, and murder. It is not surprising that they, like the Israelites, longed at the "bitter waters" for the "flesh-pots of Egypt." When in bondage, they felt only the evils of their sad state, and anticipated in freedom naught but the sweets of liberty. In their recollections they dreamed of

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<sup>\*</sup> Stanley's History of the Jewish Church.

their snug quarters, their hoe-cakes, their merry evening songs and dances, but forgot the chains, the whip, the extinction of manhood and all its ties ; and thus, as they saw in the present only privation and peril, no wonder their hearts failed them and hope well-nigh died out.

Many of the advocates of freedom were also alarmed. The old, oft-repeated sophistry, that the negro is incapable of self-government, seemed too well supported by the abuses and shiftlessness which could not but follow upon the heels of a people suddenly liberated, without the least education in the habits of self-help. It again required the faith and nerve to insist upon the rights of citizenship for the black man that it had originally required to demand his liberation. Mr. Cookman was among the number who stood forward quite early in the reconstruction agitation for the bestowal of these rights in all their fullness.

To his sister, Miss Mary B. Cookman :

“PHILADELPHIA, June 6, 1866.

“Last night I made a speech in the largest colored church in Philadelphia. Two bishops, a book agent, a missionary, an editor, etc. (all black), on the platform. Justice to the negro and justice to the traitor was my political creed announced. Duty to their brethren in the South, the exhortation urged. We had a glorious time. I thought of our honored father, how he would have reveled and kindled and flamed on such an occasion or under such circumstances.

“This suggests your inquiry respecting colonization. My impression is that colonization belongs to some future providential development. God is using the African race just now to teach us a lesson of justice and human brotherhood. We are not sufficiently instructed or disciplined yet, and can not dispense with the lesson-book. When we are disposed to do justly in every particular, then I rather expect that Providence will open some gold mines or oil wells, or something else in the African coast, or in some other locality where black people can best live, and so we shall work out the problem of colonization. At the present time they are not only important for testing our integrity, but also for cultivating our soil. As laborers they are indispensable to our wealth and prosperity. I think colonization must be left to Providence and the colored people themselves. We can not force

them away ; it would be unwise, unkind, unchristian ; and to colonize as we have been doing is like emptying a river by taking out a bucketful now and then. Let us live for the present, faithfully discharging the duty of the passing hour, which is to educate and elevate a people whose unrequited labors, multiplied wrongs, tedious bondage, and deep degradation give them a special claim upon us. Give them the spelling-book, the Bible, equal rights before the law, and the elective franchise as their weapon of defense, and then leave all the rest to God. In such a case I would implicitly trust the providence of One who is Himself infinitely just and holy and good.

"We were very grateful to learn of the improvement in dear mother's health. She does not know how unspeakably precious she is in the appreciation of her children. As time leaves its mark upon face and form, our love seems to be gentler, tenderer, and more sacred. We feel to say, 'Handle her carefully, speak to her lovingly ; pour all the sunshine possible over the remaining years of her earthly sojourn.' Oh, we enjoyed beyond expression her presence in Philadelphia. She never before seemed so beautiful in my eyes. I felt as if I wanted to see her every day. My visits were always too short for myself. God bless her with the best of His blessings—and He does, for He gives her Himself, and next to this He gives her the enthusiastic love of her devoted children. We give her her vindication before she is taken from us, that she has always been true, tender, sympathizing, loving, faithful—yes, the best of mothers.

"I have written you a long letter, and yet I have not said nearly all that is in my heart. My soul still trusts and triumphs in God. Oh, for a gust of praise to spread abroad the preciousness and power of full salvation !"

The summer of 1866 found Mr. Cookman, as usual, turned "evangelist." Instead of spending the vacation month as a holiday, he went from camp-meeting to camp-meeting, a herald of salvation. "What is the use of giving you vacation?" said one of his official brethren ; "you don't rest, you go to all the camp-meetings and preach more than if you were at home. I can not favor it unless you will rest." He replied, "I can not accept on such condition. I must preach. The Gospel is free."

He was then in perfect health, and seemed never to need the recreations which are taken apart from the constant exercise of preaching and laboring for the salvation of the people. His movements and the exercises of his mind may best be seen in



his own letters. The prominence given to the subject of holiness will strike every one. It must also be apparent how rapidly he was growing in grace—how increasingly spiritual and heavenly his experience was becoming. He was literally losing himself in Christ, and in that doctrine the experience of which he regarded as wholly putting on the Lord Jesus.

To his wife :

“CAMP GROUND, Thursday, 1866.

“I am just outside of Heaven. Penn's Grove is, as usual, the very vestibule of Paradise. The meeting, always good, was never more glorious than this year. An ~~unusual~~ number of tents are on the ground, crowds of preachers, and very many of those who are so dear to the heart of Jesus, Brother Belden, Brother Inskip and wife, etc., etc. This morning we have been enjoying a meeting, and if Heaven supplies such pleasures I certainly will have no reason for complaint.

“My glad soul mounted higher,

In a chariot of fire,

And the moon it was under my feet.’

Oh, how glad I am that I came! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost meet, overshadow me, and make the hours memorable. I feel as if I could almost give a little fortune if you were here. Perhaps we made a mistake in not coming down last Saturday, but our motive was pure. It had rained, and every thing was very damp, but my Father covered me with His feathers, and under His wing did I sleep. Yesterday I was sick, but camp-meeting has cured me, and this morning I feel decidedly better. There are constant inquiries respecting yourself, and great regret expressed that you are not here. I do not expect to preach. There are so many ministerial brethren this year that I can be excused. The trumpet has sounded for morning preaching. I have lingered a moment to scribble these few lines. To-morrow I expect to leave for Baltimore. Oh, that you could breathe this hallowed atmosphere!—oh, that you could share these celestial influences! God will bless you in Columbia. I want this summer an unprecedented baptism of the Holy Ghost.”

To his wife :

“PHILADELPHIA, SPRING GARDEN, }  
Monday morning, 5 o'clock, 1866. }

“Yesterday I preached at St. George's morning and evening, and also administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Working both ways,

this made a full and laborious day. My sermons, however, released Dr. Bartine, and thus Ennall's Springs camp-meeting was saved from disappointment. At eight o'clock I listened to Rev. Mr. Matlack. His subject was 'the Times,' and he preached the most political sermon I ever heard. Some of his expressions were terrible, but on the whole I liked it because of its truth and bravery. The Penn's Grove camp wound up gloriously. The last afternoon and evening one hundred souls were converted. They say that altogether it was the best meeting held in that forest for twelve years. This morning at nine o'clock I expect to start for the Eastern Shore. Manship goes with me. Robert Thompson's carriage will probably meet us at Bridgeville. I had another letter from him on Saturday. I think he would really suffer if I failed to get to the camp. The P—— family are as kind as they can be—God bless them! I have not heard from you since last Wednesday—that is, since I left. When I reach my destination this evening I shall expect to find letters. May our kind Heavenly Father take good care of the family of one who is anxious to do His will. My soul still trusts and triumphs in the Rock of my salvation."

To his sister, Miss Mary B. Cookman :

"August 17, 1866.

"This week, after Penn's Grove, I went down to Ennall's Springs, in Dorchester County. Oh, how my good Heavenly Father used me there! Eternal praises to His glorious name. I should want pages to tell you all. One night the power and glory of God came down in the preachers' tent after we had all retired. For myself, I was 'filled with the Spirit.' Such a season of rejoicing and praise I never witnessed. It was an inner sanctuary filled with the 'Shekinah.' About one o'clock at night we went around the ground shouting the praises of our conquering King.

"On Wednesday of this week I went up to Halifax camp-meeting, above Harrisburg. It was the last night of the meeting, but oh, what a night! Old Methodists, who had been going to camp-meeting for nearly half a century, say they never saw any thing like it. Brother George Lybrand preached very forcibly at half-past seven o'clock, and invited penitents. The bench was filled. At eleven o'clock I preached to the Church on the subject of 'Holiness.' Oh, what an appetite the people exhibited! We knelt in consecration before God, then followed the Sacrament at the midnight hour. It brought us to Jesus; He saved us from our fears and doubts, and salvation flowed down in floods. The preachers and people were of one mind and heart touching the great subject of Christian purity. I could not tell you how many entered into the rest of perfect love. The

preachers' tent, as at Ennall's Springs, was submerged with the incoming tide. Yesterday morning we gathered at the stand, listened to many witnesses of perfect love, expressed some parting counsels, received the blessing of that venerable man, Father Boehm, marched around the ground, and then, amid songs and shoutings, took the parting hand, rejoicing in the conviction that Christians never part for the last time.

"Have I not had a glorious summer? Hallelujah to the Lamb! My soul overflows with love, joy, and praise. I never felt so strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. And then the victories for holiness! Opposition is giving way, and in the centenary year of American Methodism the spotless banner of Christian purity floats triumphantly in the breeze. As Mr. Fletcher was wont to say, 'Oh, for a gust of praise to go around the world, and then to go up to God!'

"How I could enjoy Sing-Sing camp-meeting again! The scene and the showers of blessing last year constitute one of the sweetest memories of my life. I scarcely know how to deny myself the privilege of seeing those friends whom I love so much in Jesus, visiting the spot where last year I seemed to be almost visibly covered with the blood of Jesus, and enjoy the influence which I am sure will be abundantly poured out. I think, however, that during this week I must try to be at Shrewsbury. It seems to me that the great Head of the Church will perhaps use me among my dear Baltimore friends. I think I have their love and confidence, and, with the help of the Spirit, I can assist them to step into the Bethesda of perfect love. Will you not ask some of my precious friends at Sing-Sing to pray for me? I have no special claim upon them, except that I belong to the little band who profess and advocate holiness. I am theirs in the service and for the glory of the conquering Christ. Oh, let them pray that God will give me great success in spreading abroad the knowledge of full salvation. Only a week or two of my rest-time remains. It has been glorious rest at camp-meetings—glory to Jesus!

"The family are all well. Your little pets, Will and Mary, are developing more and more the characteristics which have drawn you to them. Will is full of affection, and Mary is the most independent, saucy little miss of my acquaintance. Her name is very precious in our home. I should like our gentle mother to have her in her training for a time, and give her strong will a good profitable direction. God bless you, my dearest sister. His counsel is guiding you, His grace will satisfy your every need. A universe of love to dear mother. Oh, how much I would like to see her! Tell John to take very good care of himself—his life is very dear to us and to the Church. I hope he stands strong and

triumphant in that wonderful and blessed liberty wherewith I know he has been set free."

For *The Christian Advocate* of New York :

#### "A MINISTER'S VACATION.

"My happy holiday was spent amid rural scenes, at the sea-shore, and in the enjoyment of camp-meeting privileges. The sea-shore is, of course, for me a privileged place, a locality to which I regularly resort, with as much of tender interest and blessed recollection as others would go to the grave-side of a dear parent. The beautiful country, with its diversified and magnificent scenery, never seemed more charming, and principally because I saw and found God every where. For is it not true that as the human face is more attractive when it becomes the window of a noble soul, so the face of nature seems the more glorious when through the green of the fields, and the deeper green of the forests, and the ten thousand hues of the variegated flowers, we behold the glory of that Divinity who is Himself the soul of the great universe.

#### "CAMP-MEETINGS.

"But it is of my camp-meeting experiences and observations that I wish principally to write. In the kind providence of God I was permitted to be present at four of these forest services, namely, Penn's Grove, New Jersey; Ennall's Springs, Dorchester County, Maryland; Halifax, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania; and Shrewsbury, where most of the Baltimore friends annually associate themselves in this feast of tabernacles.

"Two leading facts met my observation at all these meetings. First, the interest in the mind of the Church respecting the experience of personal holiness. Every where ministers and people were groaning for full redemption in the blood of the Lamb. I have seen hundreds at the same moment prostrated before God in the spirit of entire consecration, and concerned to appropriate Jesus as their full and perfect Saviour.

#### "A MEMORABLE SERVICE.

"Let me refer to a truly memorable service in connection with the Shrewsbury meeting. At half-past nine o'clock on Tuesday night the preachers, by arrangement, assembled in their own tent for an interchange of views respecting this great doctrine. There were about twenty-five brethren present. The expression of sentiment was frank and full. Questions were asked. Difficulties were stated. Experience was referred to. About half-past eleven, while some of us, greatly concerned and earnestly prayerful, were wondering

what might be the effect of the interview, it was proposed that we have a season of devotion before we separated. Kneeling together, the presiding elder of the Carlisle District led in prayer. While yielding himself afresh and more fully to God, and accepting Jesus as his Redeemer from all sin, salvation came in its fullness to his soul, and he was overwhelmed with emotion. In a few moments he gratefully and definitely testified, 'Brothers, Jesus saves me now, saves me so fully that I am assured if I should die at this moment I would certainly go to join the blood-washed around the throne in heaven.' A hymn of praise was sung. Then another presiding elder stepped into the Bethesda of perfect love. Directly a third presiding elder arose and said, 'Brethren, I will honestly state that, theorizing on this subject of sanctification for the last eleven years, I had well-nigh theorized my heart out of all belief of the doctrine. To-night, however, I give my theories to the winds, and I want to testify that God is giving me light—not heat, not a special experience, but simply light.' A little while after this same brother rose again, and, with a face all aglow, said, 'Brethren, glory to God! I have both now, the light and the heat. Oh, I know for myself that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth me from all sin.' So the meeting proceeded, one after another stepping into the full liberty of the sons of God. Young ministers were rejoicing in Christ as their perfect Saviour. Superannuated brethren were coming out more clearly into the blessed light of full salvation. Thus for six hours this wonderful and glorious meeting continued. During that time nineteen brethren, including the three presiding elders, took the three steps suggested—full consecration, implicit faith, and definite confession. At half-past three in the morning this band of brothers, full of glory and of God, sallied forth from the preachers' tent, and marched around the ground singing,

“ ‘I will sprinkle you with water,  
I will cleanse you from all sin,  
Sanctify and make you holy;  
I will come and dwell within.’

Subsequently they became apostles of holiness, and at every opportunity exhorted the Church to come up to the measure of their privileges in the Gospel of Jesus. Nor in vain, for all over the Shrewsbury camp-ground hundreds were seeking and large numbers entering into this rest of faith and love.

“MARYLAND METHODISM.

“O how glorious is old Maryland Methodism, standing up so bravely just now in the midst of civil and ecclesiastical disloyalty. For their encourage-

ment we took occasion to say that *the Church of God has nothing whatever to fear from without*. Earth and hell may combine to accomplish her overthrow, but all in vain. Their united efforts shall only be overruled for our advantage. *The danger of the Church is entirely from within*. Losing her purity, she loses her power, and in that case becomes the prey of her enemies. If, however, I reminded them, they would be faithful to duty and alive to privilege, all filled with the Spirit, then God would be on their side, and with Omnipotence for them they would surely and gloriously triumph.

"This revival of the doctrine and experience of holiness is in our view the most encouraging fact which our centenary year has as yet developed.

"Let the friends of this great grace rejoice, for the spotless banner of Christian purity begins again to float in triumph upon the battlements of American Methodism.

#### "SANCTIFICATION AND SUCCESS.

"The second thing which profoundly impressed me in my camp-meeting observations was, that whenever and wherever the work of sanctification revived among professing Christians, the work of God revived in the conversion of sinners.

"At Penn's Grove the divine influence seemed almost irresistible. As the result of the last two services it was estimated that there were at least one hundred conversions. The successes at the other meetings were signal and glorious. At Shrewsbury they counted up one hundred and twenty-five converts. The intimate and indissoluble connection between the sanctification of the Church and the salvation of the world was most strikingly vindicated. And is it not always so? Does not God usually communicate his Spirit to perishing sinners through the hearts of his people? Hence the necessity of being 'pure in heart' and 'filled with the Spirit.' We have taken down our banners from the forests and are setting them up in our several churches. Our Methodist hosts are girding themselves for the fall campaign. Next month will be the most interesting October of our denominational history we have ever seen. Shall it be signalized by unprecedented success? Shall a shout of victory roll up from Canada to the Rio Grande, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific? Shall American Methodism, rebaptized and all glorious with the divine presence, prepare to march down her second century conquering and to conquer? We believe that the answer to this question rests with the Church itself. If our people will hold fast in theory, realize in personal experience, testify in definite confession, and exemplify in daily deportment this vital doctrine of Christian holiness, then nothing shall stand before our spiritual power. We shall show ourselves

increasingly mighty through God in the pulling down of the strongholds of sin and hell, until Christ shall every where reign victorious, and the whole earth shall be full of the glory of God. Oh, brother Methodists every where, remembering our responsibilities, *let us be holy!*"

A letter to a prominent citizen of Baltimore, and an active layman of the Methodist Episcopal Church in that city, indicates the extent to which his services were useful at the Shrewsbury meeting, and to which his advice was subsequently sought.

To Mr. Samuel Hinds, of Baltimore :

"PHILADELPHIA, September 3, 1866.

"I thank you for your fraternal letter. Any tidings from Shrewsbury, *blessed Shrewsbury*, would be welcome, but *such tidings* were specially grateful and encouraging.

"Restoration to perfect health, or the reception of an ample fortune in the case of a dear friend, ought not to be as cheering intelligence as the fact that one we love has by faith appropriated a perfect Saviour, and is living in the enjoyment of sanctifying grace.

"*'Glory to the Lamb,'* that the young men of North Baltimore are putting on the whole panoply of God! Full of the Divinity, and valiant for the truth, may they prove themselves mighty in pulling down the strongholds of sin and hell. If I had their ear, I would say, with a brother's love and earnestness, *'Hold fast to that whereunto ye have attained.'* Do not allow any temptations or influences to lure you from the experience and profession of Christian holiness. For *Christ's* sake, for the *Church's* sake, for the world's sake, for the sake of this precious doctrine, for the sake of that *virgin purity* which is now upon your souls—for all these reasons do, I beseech you, do continue steadfast and immovable, testifying humbly but definitely that 'the blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin.'

"Let no one think for a moment that because God has answered his prayer, and granted him a deeper work of grace, that therefore he may hope for an exemption from trials, temptations, and difficulties. These will come, but if we are *'looking unto Jesus they will not move us off the Rock'*, and that is the important matter. In the time of conflict or darkness, be concerned about *two things*. First, *Is my consecration entire?* Yes. Second, *Do I this moment accept and trust in Jesus as my perfect Saviour?* Yes. Then 'all is well'—I am on the Rock. The Rock may be in the valley or on the hill-top, in the cloud or in the sunshine—it matters not; if we are on that sure foundation, all is well. It is not darkness or temptation or trial that

separates the soul from God—*it is only sin*. Let, then, our trusting souls adopt as their motto, 'ANY THING BUT SIN.'

"The days I spent at the camp-meeting were among the happiest and best of my life. Can I ever forget some of those blessed scenes and seasons? Sabbath morning—Sabbath evening; Tuesday morning—Tuesday night in the preachers' tent; Wednesday morning, when I so reluctantly withdrew myself from those hallowed privileges. *Oh! I remember it all*. It supplies a rich feast of memory. It constrains at this moment *a heartfelt glory to the Lamb*. I shall never *cease to praise God for the Shrewsbury camp-meeting of 1866*. My Baltimore friends, always precious, never seemed so dear before. Oh! I want to walk with them upon the king's highway of holiness, and after a while spend an eternity with them in the sweet groves of bliss. Convey to any whom you may meet assurances of my Christian affection, and believe me, beloved brother, yours for *full salvation*."

Another honored layman\* of Baltimore, alluding to Mr. Cookman's labors at the same camp-meeting, wrote subsequently:

"I owe more, under God, to Brother Cookman than to any other being for the experience which I now enjoy. His sweet voice, ringing out so clearly, '*Be ye holy*,' was the first to awaken in my mind an anxious inquiry on the subject of Christian holiness. He led me into the higher life—into the possession of a brighter and deeper religious experience. Now that he has fallen, I feel more than ever like being true to the doctrine, which it seemed his special mission so forcibly to proclaim."

To his mother:

"PHILADELPHIA, September 10, 1866.

"We are comfortably ensconced in our parsonage home after the ramblings of our summer vacation—a vacation which we all exceedingly enjoyed, especially myself. Indeed, it was the most delightful holiday of my life. I was able to commingle physical, social, intellectual, and especially religious pleasures, so that, while it was sweet *in realization*, it is also blessed *in remembrance*. Toward its close I found myself at the famed Shrewsbury camp-meeting, arriving on a Saturday evening, and remaining till the following Wednesday. Shall I say that these were the three greatest and

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\* Mr. John Hurst.



most glorious days of my life? Yes, not even excepting the blessed season we enjoyed at Sing-Sing last year. Indeed, I did not understand or appreciate before how our Almighty Father could use a worm or a ram's horn for the accomplishment of His own most wonderful purposes. I did not comprehend how the possibilities of my feeble being, energized by His power and accompanied with His unction, could bring about such glorious results. *He made me an apostle of holiness.*

"Dr. Roberts, detained at home by the serious illness of a patient, the responsibility of cherishing, teaching, and seeking to spread this vital doctrine devolved upon your first-born. Oh, how my blessed Heavenly Father helped me! I was a marvel to myself. The interest was such that the largest meeting-tents would not suffice to accommodate those hungering and thirsting for full salvation through the blood of the Lamb, and such services had to be held at the stand. All over the ground (and there were nearly four hundred tents) the dear friends were interested on this subject of heart purity. On Tuesday morning I preached a sermon on entire sanctification. The illumination and unction vouchsafed were, I think, unprecedented in my history. Oh, what power I had in appealing to the preachers! *Hundreds* of interested people bowed in consecration. Then followed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This seemed to help the faith of the multitude, and we had a day of days—a day that some will remember long as eternal ages roll. That night we held a meeting on the subject in the *preachers' tent*, especially for the benefit of the brethren in the ministry. About twenty-five were present. We commenced at half-past nine o'clock, and continued till past three in the morning—nearly six hours. During this time *nineteen preachers*, including three presiding elders, stepped into the Bethesda of perfect love. Did you ever hear of any thing so wonderful or glorious? The old preachers, of fifty years' standing, some of whom experienced that night for the first time the broad and blessed rest of full salvation, declared that they had never seen it in that wise before.

"There were constant inquiries respecting yourself, with the strongest expressions of tender love for you and yours. Bless God for our Baltimore friends. During the last ten days I have been receiving by almost every mail letters from that city asking for my humble services, or expressing thanks in view of my labors at the camp-meeting. Labors in my home sphere, where the tendency is to worldliness, seem by contrast painfully tame and ineffectual.

"Last week we had the Convention of Southern Unionists in our city—a body of brave and noble men. Philadelphia enthusiasm was in a blaze. Altogether it was a most memorable occasion."

A letter written to his sister, February 15th, 1867, will be read with interest because of its references to the deaths of cherished friends, especially that of the Rev. Dr. Munroe, Secretary of the Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It is not too much to say that the whole Church shared in the feeling of sorrow here expressed by Mr. Cookman. The letter, which was written soon after from the seat of the Conference at Harrisburg, will recall to those who were present the tender fidelity which he showed as chairman of the committee on memorial services for deceased brethren. The beautiful service for rendering the occasion impressive was due to his thoughtfulness. The Rev. Dr. Nadal, who was then a member of the Philadelphia Conference, made a pleasant allusion at the time to the occasion in a letter to Mrs. Nadal.\* The letter which quickly followed to Mrs. Skidmore will be chiefly valued as expressing Mr. Cookman's views of a controversy which was then quite active in the New York Preachers' Meeting.

To Miss Mary Cookman :

“ February 15, 1867.

“ We have had an unusually solemn week. The tribe of Levi, with its immediate adherents, seem, in the providence of God, to have been placed in the front of the battle. The arrows of death are flying around us thick and fast. First the self-sacrificing Beckwith, of the Bedford Street Mission, fell, with this sentiment upon his lips, ‘ I am safe in Jesus—all is well.’ Last Saturday a daughter of the Rev. William Barnes went to Heaven; her last words were, ‘ I have fought a good fight.’ Tuesday I made the address at the funeral of Helen Batcheldor,† and accompanied the *cortège* to Trenton. Her dying testimony was, ‘ I see Jesus.’ On Wednesday we had the funeral obsequies of the lamented Munroe, one of the most useful and efficient ministers of American Methodism. It was one of the most impressive occasions of the kind I ever witnessed. Hundreds of ministers, great multitudes of people, the deepest bereavement, and the most undisguised affection, the

\* “ The New Life Dawning.” Nelson & Phillips, New York.

† Widow of the late Rev. Mr. Batcheldor, of the New Jersey Conference, and daughter of the Rev. Dr. Bartine.

most tender and touching eulogies. Munroe died gloriously. It was virtually a translation, while the character of the man and the circumstances of his death make the event a sermon addressed to a continent. Personally I am greatly bereaved. Dr. Munroe was a great favorite of mine—one of my model ministers. My estimate of him is expressed in the resolutions of the Philadelphia Preachers' Meeting. Dr. Mattison's address on the occasion of the funeral was especially beautiful. I wish you could have heard it. In the midst of 'deaths oft' I cling to that perfect love that casteth out all fear, sweetly realizing that with my life hid with Christ in God, nothing shall be able to separate the bond. All is well—all is well."

To his wife :

"HARRISBURG, March 15, 1867.

\* \* \* "This morning we had our memorial service. As one of the committee of arrangements, I had, of course, the heavy end of the burden. Among other arrangements, I secured from the city some beautiful wreaths of immortelles, which encircled the name of the deceased minister, with a record of the time of his birth and death. Three ladies, one in each aisle, brought them forward at the right time, and they were suspended on the wall in the rear of the pulpit. The conception was highly appreciated, and its execution was most successfully carried out. This afternoon, with about two hundred members of the Conference, I proceeded to Carlisle, where the college faculty and students gave us a most enthusiastic reception. I can not go into all the particulars now, but it was a splendid time—a literal ovation. We returned about half-past six, and now I am writing in the parlor, surrounded by friends, and obliged every few moments to lay down my pencil and respond to affectionate inquiries. To-morrow afternoon, God willing, I expect to go to Pittsburgh. This morning's mail brought letters from K—— and Robert S——, who are very importunate in their solicitations for my presence and services. There is considerable interest, they say, in the Christ Church congregation. I am enjoying the Conference exceedingly. Our morning prayer-meeting is delightful—full salvation is the theme. Glory to the Lamb."

To Mrs. Skidmore, of New York :

"PHILADELPHIA, April 2, 1867.

"When I said farewell to you, I did not intend that three weeks should elapse before the transmission of the promised letter. I saw you with my mind's eye, a patient invalid confined to the house, and I said if my poor words may prove a *ray of sunshine* to that warm, loving heart, how cheerfully and even joyfully shall they be penned. Conference, however, came

on, and, as you will understand (for you know you are about half-preacher), its scenes and services were entirely absorbing. Our session was one of unusual interest and harmony. The pastor of the Harrisburg Methodist Episcopal Church, echoing the desire of a great many dear friends (many of them my former parishioners), insisted that I should preach on the first evening of the Conference. It was a great trial, and yet, thinking it might be in the order of God, I did not dare to refuse. Selecting my favorite theme, viz., entire devotion to Jesus, I was blessed with unusual illumination and unction. Each morning we held a prayer and experience meeting. These services, though not very largely attended, were seasons of great interest and blessing. The friends of holiness rallied (as they always do in devotional services), and the testimonies respecting the power and preciousness of full salvation were decided and delightful.

"I spent the Sabbath of Conference with my Pittsburgh friends. Dr. Morgan had not reached, and would not enter upon his new field of labor before the first of April. This was a little to be regretted, as an extraordinary religious awakening seemed to pervade the entire community—something akin to the revival scenes and successes of 1857 and 1858. The other denominations, and some of the Methodist churches, were reaping blessed harvests. I preached Sabbath morning and evening, and again on Monday night, leaving for Harrisburg on the ten P.M. train. A letter received last Saturday supplies the grateful intelligence that at least two young men were influenced by my feeble words. Oh, how I joy to be instrumental in the great work of saving souls! The authorities (as we expected) have returned me to Spring Garden Street the third year. I am delightfully situated and most happy in my work. God is using me, as I trust, for the promotion of His kingdom and glory. Our Friday meeting is unabated in its interest and power. The Tuesday meeting, too, is overflowing full. Both these services last week were unusually precious and profitable. Miss S—— touched beautifully on the importance of bringing this precious grace to the attention of our children, relating the experience of a little girl fourteen years of age, one of her scholars. Oh, how I wish you could have sat with us in our 'banqueting-house!'

"By-the-way, what think you of the articles of Drs. Curry and Mattison on the subject of sanctification, published more recently in the columns of *The Christian Advocate*? It seems to me their tendency is to destroy definite aims and discourage distinctive efforts. How grateful we should be that, instead of expressing opinions, we can testify to *facts that are matters of personal consciousness*—instead of saying 'We believe,' we can humbly declare 'We know.' This expression of different views raises in my mind this practical

inquiry, 'What right have men to be restrained by views concerning spiritual doctrine, when that doctrine illustrates and vindicates itself in personal experience?' One thing is clear: those who are walking in this light and liberty are not perplexed with antagonizing views, but understand one another and enjoy rest. But see! here I am at the end of my fourth page, and just beginning my letter.

"We had hoped this week to have seen you face to face, and in an old-fashioned *tête-à-tête* traversed a much larger space than could be covered even in a lengthy epistle. This, however, seems impracticable. I can not very well absent myself next Sabbath. We are hoping that about the time of the May anniversaries we can steal away for a few days, and look again on cherished faces and familiar scenes that are forever embalmed in our affectionate remembrance. Our failure to spend Conference week in New York involves a disappointment, but it seems unavoidable. Will you not remember us tenderly to any of our friends whom you may see? In closing my letter, allow me to recur to your recent sojourn in our city, and say that we enjoyed it more than language can express. To hear your voice in song and prayer and testimony called up vividly the blessed past, and, with our eyes closed, we could almost imagine ourselves in New York, surrounded by as superior a circle of Christian friends as perhaps was ever associated together. Oh, if I could I would reach up *to-day* and *every day*, and, taking a great armful of the heavenly glory, I would fling it on your person and path!"

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## CHAPTER XVIII.

### SPRING GARDEN STREET CHURCH.—THE NATIONAL CAMP-MEETING MOVEMENT.

QUITE early in the Conference year of 1867, the thought occurred to some of the friends of holiness that it would be wise to use the "camp-meeting" as a distinctive means of promoting the doctrine. The suggestion met with favor, and a call was accordingly issued to those who were inclined to co-operate in such a movement to meet in Philadelphia.

A convention was held in pursuance of this call, and it was resolved to hold a camp-meeting at Vineland, New Jersey, with the avowed object of advancing the doctrine and experience of entire sanctification. Mr. Cookman was one of those who signed the call; he took an active part in the deliberations of the Convention; he sustained by voice and act the conclusions at which it arrived, and, when the time for the camp-meeting came, no one entered more heartily into its spirit, purpose, and methods than he did. His feelings immediately before the camp-meeting were freely expressed to his friends and to the Church.

To Mrs. Skidmore, of New York :

"PHILADELPHIA, July 2, 1867.

"We thought to spend Conference week in New York—then our visit was postponed till Anniversary week—then a trip to Montreal on the occasion of the International Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations was seriously meditated. All these plans, however, were frustrated, and, instead of the face-to-face interview, I must satisfy myself in a mere artificial and unsatisfactory way. In your severe and protracted ailment we have deeply sympathized—our interest, a reflection of the tender love that overflows the heart of our faithful Lord. To every body bearing the imprint or coming from the direction of New York, the first question has been,

‘Have you seen or heard from Sister S——?’ ‘Is she better?’ So you will understand that Philadelphia still answers to its name, ‘*The city of brotherly love.*’ You have doubtless been advised of our Vineland camp-meeting. It is rather a bold movement for the friends of holiness, but I believe it is in the order of God, and will be accompanied and followed by blessed results. Associated with the originators of this enterprise, I can bear a most emphatic testimony to the purity of their motives, and the thoughtfulness, care, and earnest supplication to God that characterized all their deliberations. Indeed, the day we spent together in this city making arrangements was one of the blessed days in my life. When we meet I will give you all the particulars.

“Vineland is on the line of the Cape May Railroad, about thirty miles from Philadelphia. The grove in which the meeting will be held covers an area of forty acres, is just in the suburbs of the town, and is known as the Public Park. Used for picnics, temperance gatherings, etc., the undergrowth has been cleared away, so that the ground is all ready for our accommodation. A population of ten thousand are associated in the settlement, temperate and thrifty people, so that there will be no lack of immortal material to reach and benefit. The prospects of the meeting are continually brightening. Oh, that the great revival of holiness that signalized 1760 might be reduplicated in 1867! Oh, that influences might be vouchsafed at and go forth from our Vineland meeting that, spreading from society to society, may wrap the nation and the world in a great flame of spiritual revival!

“Our present purpose is to secure a tent, take a part of the family, and domesticate in the forest for ten days. Will you not accompany us? We will do all in our power to make you comfortable and happy. If sleeping in the woods shall be deemed imprudent in your present condition of health, you can have a room at one of the hotels that are in the town adjoining. But I think you will agree with me that, unless *we work too much*, physical recuperation is as probable at camp-meeting as at Saratoga or Cape May. Charles Street Church, of Baltimore, will go almost *en masse*, and their pastor is most hopeful of results.

“By-the-way, writing of Baltimore reminds me of *The Episcopal Methodist*. Did you see the criticism upon the views and experience of one of your former pastors, written by Dr. T. E. Bond, my old friend and former patron?—for the Doctor helped to make me a preacher, and was one of my first and wisest counselors. His interest in the subject of personal sanctification at that time, often expressed at our home where he led his class, helped to increase my desire for what I then began to see dimly and distantly. One of his sententious sayings I have carried as an axiom for many years, viz.,

‘Spiritual doctrine like sanctification can not be *taught*, it must be *acquired*.’ Acting upon this practical suggestion, I trust that with his blessed sister I have reached a point where, instead of theorizing or speculating or doubting or criticising, I may humbly say that by the grace of God ‘I know.’ The article in *The Episcopal* did not disturb my spiritual rest for a moment, nor did it distantly affect my respect or love for Dr. Bond. My criticism upon his criticism is, that I never knew him (one of my favorite writers) to write less clearly and satisfactorily.”

To the Rev. J. S. Inskip, of New York :

“PHILADELPHIA, July 2, 1867.

“‘Grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied to you and your faithful helpmeet, our beloved sister in the Lord.’ We love you both in Jesus Christ. Our affection sanctified has a sacredness in it; and then, unlimited by our present life, it is to continue and increase forever. I always liked you, for we had common sympathies in the fight for freedom, but now that the perfect love of Jesus fills your soul, our hearts are kindred drops. Do you remember the holy baptism we received together in Sing-Sing forest, when, through the cloudless firmament, the glory of God descending, made the hour forever memorable in our history? Oh, that at Vineland we may realize still more sensibly a closer proximity to the true life, and from this blessed source receive an unusual supply of life and purity and power !

“Our contemplated meeting provokes much less critical comment than I had anticipated—at least I have not heard of any unkind animadversions. A good deal of interest has been excited in many minds. The Kensington friends have organized a company, and will take their large tent. Quite a number connected with my congregation are making their arrangements to attend. Some members of other denominations will go from our city. Old Baltimore will be represented by fifty or sixty of the Lord’s chosen ones. I think the interest is developing gloriously, and because the Divine is in it. Meanwhile I accept your proposition to employ all our powers with God for his special blessing upon this unusual effort to promote His glory. Oh, that it may be a time of times ! Oh, that, as in 1760, a revival of the work of holiness may begin, that, spreading North, South, East, and West, may wrap the nation, the continent, and the world in a great flame of devotion to Jesus ! Mighty faith in an Almighty Saviour ! Let this be our key-note, and let all the people say, Amen ! Brother Osborne has, of course, furnished you with all the particulars respecting the location, tent arrangements, etc., etc. Now, farewell ! God be with you, and abundantly bless you. After a while we are going to live together forever.”



The Vineland camp-meeting began on July 17th, and continued for ten days. The supporters of the movement were well satisfied with the experiment. Many ministers and laymen from all parts of the country attended its services, and the results were so marked by the utter absence of all extravagance, and the positive fruits of regeneration and sanctification, that not only were the originators of the movement confirmed in their opinions as to the utility of the method, but many, who at the commencement entertained doubts, became thoroughly convinced. Among those who attended the meeting and participated in its exercises were Bishop Simpson and his family. The bishop's eldest son was converted there, and the March following died in peace.

In no respect have the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church shown more wisdom than in their promptness to countenance all movements in the Church looking to the advancement either of its moral purity or the more thorough and efficient working of its ecclesiastical polity. Bishop Simpson, in this instance as in others, did not stand aloof because of the possible dangers which might be suggested to calm criticism; but, seeing good and true men honestly engaged in an enterprise which in his opinion was at variance neither with the doctrines nor the usages of Methodism, he gave them his presence and co-operation.

Mr. Cookman was present with his family from the first to the last of the meeting, and worked incessantly for its success—preaching, praying, exhorting with unusual unction and power. His sermon on the occasion, from 1 Thess. iv., 3, "This is the will of God, even your sanctification," made a strong impression for the clearness and force with which it set forth the definitive experience in the interest of which the meeting had been called.

Such was the success of this meeting in the judgment of the friends present, that the question of holding one of like character at some time during the ensuing year thrust itself upon

them. It appeared that God might be pointing them to a broad and permanent means of carrying forward a general revival of "holiness" in the Church. They accordingly, before leaving the ground, after a full and prayerful conference, determined to hold another meeting the next year, and also formed an "Association" for its control, and the control of all similar meetings which it might be deemed expedient to hold.

I quote from an article of which the Rev. William McDonald is the author :

"At a business-meeting of those who signed the call for the Vineland meeting, met to consider, among other things, the question of holding another meeting, the ensuing summer, Brother Cookman was present, giving his heartiest support to the measure. In that memorable meeting the 'National Camp-meeting Association' was formed. It was born of prayer. The brethren knelt. Brother Cookman prayed with almost unexampled fervency, as though a great battle was near, and that victory could only be secured through the leadership of the Captain of our salvation—the Lord of Hosts. While yet on their knees, the Association was formed, and all the business of that meeting was transacted. No one present on that occasion will forget how mightily he prayed for God's blessing on the work to which he was fully persuaded they had been called from above.

"Brother Cookman was appointed one of the committee to secure a suitable location for the coming year ; and, on account of his special interest in the neighborhood, Manheim, Lancaster, Pa., was selected."\*

Thus was organized a movement which may prove an epoch in the history of American Methodism. It certainly marked a period in Mr. Cookman's career. He was well and favorably known by reputation throughout the Church before ; but his intimate connection with the work of this Association threw him personally upon the whole Church, and in contact with many of its best representatives, to such extent as to very greatly multiply his influence. In it God seemed about to answer his prayer from the lips of the holy Fletcher, "Oh, for a gust of praise to go around the world and then go up to God!" Either by voice

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\* *Advocate of Christian Holiness*, vol. iii., No. 1, p. 3, 4. July, 1872.

or report his usefulness, hitherto confined to local limits, was about to spread to well-nigh every section of our vast population.

He felt that for him the opportunity thus afforded was providential. God had been making him a light, and now had provided him with the stand whence the light could shine to all who are in the nation. The National Association did not create him, it simply revealed him to the people, and thus made the circle of his influence commensurate with his endowments. This is the way ordinarily in which God works—circumstances do not make men, He makes the men who can understand and use the circumstances. As I have previously maintained, Alfred Cookman had a “faculty” for religion—in this respect he was as really great as other men who have a faculty for poetry or science—and this faculty, partly constitutional, but pre-eminently supernatural, enabled him to see God’s purposes as few men could, and, seeing them, to follow whither they pointed.

Whatever may be said as to the merits of the issue involved in the National Camp-meeting Association, it is certain that Mr. Cookman was fully committed to its support, and was in strict accord with its purpose. The proper presentation of his life has to do with the question only so far as his relation to it is concerned; and the advocacy of the movement is pertinent only so far as the desire is felt to make it appear that he was wise in upholding it. The originators of the movement anticipated that it would not meet with universal favor. This could not be expected; for while the whole Christian Church from the beginning has never lost sight of the doctrine usually expressed by the terms “perfection” or “sanctification,” yet it has been always more or less divided in opinion as to whether the state indicated is attainable in the present life; or, if attainable, whether ever attained; and, if both attainable and attained, whether attained gradually or instantaneously.

It must be conceded that Wesleyan theology, as expounded by Mr. Wesley, Mr. Fletcher, and their immediate successors,

Messrs. Clarke, Watson, and Bunting, and by the leading divines of both British and American Methodism of this day, teaches that the experience of entire sanctification may be attained both gradually and instantaneously. The preponderance of opinion is that, however gradual in any case the work may be, there is an instant when the blessing is received, and from which the consciousness of the believer may date his entrance into perfect love. The teaching and habit of Methodism have also been from the commencement to insist upon this experience as the privilege of all believers, and to urge them to its prompt attainment as the fulfillment of the true ideal of the Christian life. To the questions, "Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life? Are you groaning after it?" Methodist preachers who are candidates for admission into the ministry are expected to answer affirmatively; and Methodism does not recognize one law of the spiritual life for its ministers and another for its laymen.

If, therefore, the doctrine of both a gradual and instantaneous sanctification be Wesleyan, it certainly can not be regarded as anti-Wesleyan to use special efforts to promote it. Methodism itself in its rise was a specialty—a revival of primitive Christianity—and in its whole work was regarded as a rather irregular movement, in that it sought to accomplish its purpose by methods apart from ordinary usages. Though demanding of its adherents no doctrinal test, there never was a system more exact in its definition of spiritual truth; it has declared plainly what is heart-religion; it has invariably aimed at definitive results, and has as invariably used definitive means to secure them.

If there be one foe of Truth and Piety which Methodism by its very genius and traditions has fought, it is vagueness of faith and practice; the vagueness which allows spiritual doctrine to dissolve into mysticism, sound morality into sentimentalism, and decisive methods into a spiritless, aimless mechanism. Any thing, Methodism has claimed, but the uniformity of death.

It always would have life ; it believes there can be no life without motion ; born itself in a blaze of fire, it must spread by creating excitement, if that be the only way it can arouse attention. Indebted to men and means regarded as irregular for its unprecedented growth, it can not cease to cherish those who still feel that they may legitimately work for its advancement by and even beyond its regular appliances ; comprehensive in its faith and polity, it holds that where an object ought to be effected, there is a way to effect it, and that this way is usually the one which goes straight to the object and deals specifically with it ; like all true reforms, it first ascertains and points out the evil to be removed, and then seeks the best and surest means of its accomplishment.

All progress proves that general sentiment can not be depended upon for appreciable results, only as it is concentrated and directed to specific ends. Society is lifted up and impelled forward by those men who see particular issues in advance of their times, and precipitate the virtues of their fellows into conflict to gain them. The great masses of mankind are ever prone to a dull level of fair and easy goodness, and would constantly sink lower and lower, until goodness would lose all Christian distinctiveness, all the pathos of devotion, and all the vigor of spiritual heroism, were not God to send out now and then his prophets, who, moving among them in their fiery zeal and stern faith, call them up to a higher and sharper life.

The danger of creating a "class" will lie against all movements in the direction of progress, whether in the Church or in society. All forms of life spread by organization, and every organization which seeks the propagation of any truth, by the very fact may be supposed to assume a sort of superiority, and thus constitute itself a class. What is the Church in any community but the assertion of a moral and spiritual superiority in the persons who compose it to the unregenerate people around them ? This is the point of offense in the Church with a criti-

cal outside world, and yet it is not regarded as a valid or avoidable one by those who hold to the belief that the "community of the regenerated," or body of believers, are the divine leaven which is to spread until it assimilates to itself the entire unbelieving mass. The law of the diffusion of Christ's kingdom is through the intensified lives of the comparatively few. Single individuals, or groups of individuals, in whom the Holy Ghost has wrought a profounder faith, seem to be the appointed reservoirs of a higher life. Christ deposited the mysteries of the Kingdom with twelve disciples; the first Reformers were a small band in the Catholic world; the Moravians a devout brotherhood in the Protestantism of Germany; Methodism was merely a revival society within the Church of England. Thus we have disclosed a wondrous provision for the restoration, maintenance, and growth of the doctrinal and spiritual purity of the Church. The vindication from the charge of "class interest" is the fruit produced.

The whole question with regard to the National Association reduces itself simply to one of control. The spirit of Methodism and its history justify their movement, and it only remains for them to prosecute their work in accordance with this spirit and history. Their separate meetings for conference have support in Mr. Wesley's advice: "That consequently it behooves us to speak in public almost continually of the state of justification, but more rarely, at least in full and explicit terms, concerning entire sanctification."\* Meetings called especially for the purpose give opportunity for carrying out this advice better than promiscuous assemblies.

It will thus be seen that Mr. Cookman was fully committed to the movement. He was far from denying to those who could not see their way to espouse its principles and methods of action equal sincerity with himself; but he was positive in assuming that it was of God, and that under the divine guidance

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\* Watson's *Life of Wesley*, p. 168. John Mason, London.

would render incalculable service to the cause of Christian perfection. He could not, therefore, but regard violent opposition to it as an effort to hinder the spread of scriptural holiness.

The National Camp-meeting Association has from its inception eschewed controversy. It has sought to do its work by assuming that the doctrine of entire sanctification is both scriptural and Wesleyan, already the established theory of the Church, and needed only to be explained, enforced, and realized—and so has striven in a quiet spirit to accomplish its end. In this respect and in one other—having originated without pre-conceived plan—it bears close resemblance to the rise of Methodism itself. The Rev. George Hughes, secretary of the committee, in a “Special Request” to the adherents of the Association, used these words:

“The ‘National Association for the Promotion of Holiness,’ having its origin, as we believe, in Divine Providence, is a very simple organization. It has no Constitution or By-Laws. Its members are bound together by bonds of love and prayer. No organization, perhaps, ever transacted so much business on their knees. It is composed of ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but is by no means sectarian in its aims. Its primal object was to awaken a deeper interest in the Methodist Church in regard to this cardinal doctrine of Christianity, and expressly to be instrumental in leading ministers and members to the experience of this rich grace; and the great Head of the Church has been pleased to give them abundant success in both of these departments. But not for the Methodist Church alone do they labor—but for the *universal Church*, and Providence has opened ‘great and effectual doors’ beyond our own limits. Other churches have been feeling the influence of national camp-meetings, and the sacred fire is burning upon many altars.”\*

In closing this “Request,” he urged united prayer, that on the day of the Association’s annual meeting “such a baptism may fall upon every one assembled as will lead the members of the Association to prove, as never before, the *enduring power* of perfect love—a love that *endureth all things*; and that with

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\* *Methodist Home Journal*, Philadelphia, October 12, 1872.

meekness and quietness, under all circumstances, they may pursue their way ; and, further, that they may be wisely directed in their plans for 1873."

No society was ever more in accord with primitive Christian custom as to its origin and organization, or could be more simple and exact in its aim, or more thoroughly Catholic in its animating spirit. While all the godly men, thus banded together, harmonized upon these truly scriptural principles of action, it may yet be clearly seen that Mr. Cookman had no small share in their adoption and maintenance. Sufficient extracts have been given from his letters, and many more might be given from his unpublished manuscripts, to show that he deprecated "controversy," as not suited to promote the work of sanctification. He preferred to rest the doctrine, after an honest effort to set it forth, upon the self-evidencing claim with which it appeals to all earnest believers—showing itself by its own light as well suited to meet the sense of need which the Holy Spirit awakens in all believing hearts. The Pauline method was his: "By manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." This course sound judgment dictated to him ; but much more that broad, pure charity in which he lived. Love evolved the light in which and with which he saw all religious questions.

A quotation from the Rev. Mr. Inskip, President of the Association, is pertinent just here :

"I want to advert to his intimate relations with the National Camp-meeting Association. He attended the first meeting, and he was on his knees leading in prayer with his brethren when God's Spirit impressed them to hold such a meeting. All the work of arranging for the services of that meeting was done while kneeling, and then we took hold of hands and promised, with God's help, to carry on the work, and never answer any thing that was said against us. That covenant has been unbroken, and remembered with more interest because he has gone who suggested such a course."\*

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\* *Methodist Home Journal*, September 7, 1872.



The counsel of Mr. Wesley, with regard to the spirit of teaching holiness, had evidently sunk deep into his heart, and undoubtedly had much to do with the sweet and kindly policy which he recommended to the Association :

“Does not the harshly preaching perfection tend to bring believers into a kind of bondage or slavish fear?

“It does. Therefore we should always place it in the most amiable light, so that it may excite only hope, joy, and desire.”\*

Eager as Mr. Cookman was to avail himself of the opportunity of personal effort under the auspices of the Association, and deeply as he felt his obligations to the delightful fellowships into which it introduced him, and which were so signally helpful to his growth in perfect love, he after all prized the movement more for its general aspects, as a grand agency raised up without respect to individuals for the spread of holiness in America. It was originated for the furtherance of what he regarded as the “pearl of doctrines,” and he believed that it would lead the Church up to a higher standard of faith and living, and so fulfill God’s will. As late as September, 1870, he wrote in reference to his associates and himself in connection with the “committee:”

“Our motives are pure, our work providential, our success of God. Still there are some who would hinder the spread of scriptural holiness. Be it so. God is our judge, and in heaven we shall have our reward. It would have been much easier to spend my vacation of thirty days in resting at Cape May or some other place than in hard ministerial toil.”

Mr. Cookman’s attendance upon the Vineland camp-meeting, and identification with the National Association, did not abate his zeal for the camp-meetings held under the ordinary auspices of the Church. The summer of 1867 found him on his customary rounds to these favorite resorts. His vacation, as heretofore, was spent in incessant labor. A letter to his

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\* Watson’s Life of Wesley, p. 171. John Mason, London.

wife from Ennall's Springs camp-ground, Dorchester County, Md., is an index to the whole.

To his wife :

"ENNALL'S SPRINGS CAMP-GROUND, Monday morning.

"This morning's sermon has just now closed, and I will take this opportunity to redeem my promise of a letter. Interested in all that concerns me, you will want to know respecting my progress since our farewell on the Susquehanna. The train took me first to York. After the lapse of an hour we started again, and reached Baltimore about six P.M. Dr. H—— and son were waiting for me. Quartered at his home, I received every attention and kindness. During the evening I called on a number of friends, sat up till midnight, and the following morning was driven in the Doctor's carriage to the steam-boat. There were a number of friends on board—Revs. Clemm, French, S. Evans, Tomkinson, and also a good many Baltimore friends. The sail was delightful, the dinner excellent, and at half-past two P.M. Sherman's Landing was reached. Brother Robert Thompson's carriage was waiting. Taking our seats, we had a pleasant ride, and met on the ground a most enthusiastic welcome. \* \* \* The tents and arrangements of the camp-ground are the neatest, coziest, and most comfortable I have ever seen. Brother R. Thompson has his two-story home prettily furnished with tasteful cornice and curtains and blinds. It is the most perfect cottage I have ever seen. Yesterday there was a great multitude of people assembled here. The weather having changed to a bright and beautiful day, Brother Clemm preached in the morning on 'I am not ashamed,' etc. I preached in the afternoon on 'From him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.' The large congregation was quiet and singularly attentive. I trust good was accomplished. There are not more than eight or ten preachers on the ground, but more will come to-day and during the week. There is great deadness among the members, and thus far comparatively little has been accomplished. I led the eight o'clock prayer-meeting this morning. We had a profitable meeting. Vineland formed such a contrast that it makes every thing else seem tame. We are treated here like kings and queens. Yesterday at dinner, roast goose, fried chickens, barbecued chickens, roast lamb, ham, potatoes, squashes, cucumbers, beets, corn, jellies, pickles, etc., etc. On Thursday I want to return to Baltimore, look in on the Waters camp-ground, and on Monday eve return to Columbia. When you write to our dear boys give them a father's love. Remember me affectionately to all at home. Kiss the children for me."

A sister-in-law, writing to his mother, Mrs. Mary Cookman, September 9, 1867, says: "Alfred looks remarkably well; he weighs now one hundred and sixty-seven pounds. He says he thinks this has been the happiest summer of his life, and that he has been fully rewarded for what many persons would call labor."

To his wife :

"PHILADELPHIA, Saturday morning.

"I do not know that this will reach you before Monday morning, when you start for Philadelphia; nevertheless it may, and I know it will be satisfactory to hear from the '*Itinerant*.'"

"Last evening I returned from the Eastern Shore. To say that I had a delightful or glorious time only feebly expresses the truth. I was received and treated almost as if I had been an angel. It was one of the happiest and best weeks in my life. There were about one hundred tents, beautiful weather, fine congregations, good preaching, and great success. I preached twice (Tuesday morning and Thursday evening), *and worked hard all the time*. My soul was in heaven. Oh, what precious experiences God vouchsafed me in that consecrated grove, and how wonderfully, how unusually he used me! This week I think surely I have been in the order of God. With the religious there was great social enjoyment. Last night, wearied out, having lost sleep and my voice, I reached home safely. C—— had been very careful and faithful. After my Friday-evening meeting I went to bed, and oh, what sleep! I did not wake until eight o'clock this morning. Now I am ready for another start. I regret that we can not get to Shrewsbury for a day or two, but such a visit, under the circumstances, seems impracticable. The weather is cooler, and the friends are beginning to return to the city."

To Mrs. Skidmore, of New York :

"Grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied unto you. Separation and distance fail to affect the family relationship. In New Jersey, Pennsylvania, or New York, on earth or in heaven, we are *brother* and *sister* still. I have had a glorious summer campaign. Vineland was, as you know, quite in the verge of heaven, and had only one disadvantage—it made every other service seem tame by comparison. At Ennall's we had a blessed *victory for God*. At Waters', near Baltimore, the battle was progressing gloriously when I left on Tuesday. Andrew and Mrs. K——, fully girded, were winning trophies for Jesus. I heard Andrew preach on Monday very delightfully from, 'And Enoch walked with God.'"

## CHAPTER XIX.

### SPRING GARDEN STREET CHURCH. — THE DEATH OF GEORGE COOKMAN AND OF ALFRED BRUNER COOKMAN.

THE unremitting pastor had hardly rested from the evangelistic labors of the summer, when one of the heaviest calamities of his life fell upon him in the sudden death of his brother George, which occurred October 1, 1867. From the time of his conversion Mr. George Cookman had been one of the most active Christian men in Philadelphia. Sympathizing with the catholic spirit which prevailed at the time of his conversion, he threw himself not only into the work of his own Church, but also into the general religious work of the city. His talents and piety were speedily recognized ; and by the suffrages of all Christians he became an acknowledged leader among the young men of the community. He was elected to succeed Mr. George H. Stuart to the presidency of the Young Men's Christian Association, over which he presided with eminent success. On the occasion of his inauguration he delivered an address which showed him possessed of the native eloquence of the family—an eloquence which would have fitted him to shine in any profession which he might have chosen for a vocation. The ringing call of his peroration doubtless still lingers in the memory of many who were present :

“ Pulaski, one of the brave Poles who espoused the American cause, and to whom, as well as Kosciusko, our country owes almost an incalculable debt, in one or two instances turned the fortunes of war against our enemies by uttering his habitual cry of ‘ Forward, brethren, forward ! ’ here and there and every where, in the thickest of the fight. The failing strength of the

American soldier was often revived, and his arm nerved with new vigor, as he heard the inspiring voice of the undaunted general above the din of battle—"Forward, brethren, forward!"

"Young men of this association—young men of Philadelphia—brothers beloved in the Son of God, to-night I re-echo that battle-cry, and shout, Forward, brethren, forward! Forward, because God hath loved us. Forward, because Christ hath died for us. Forward, because the world, perishing, appeals to us. Forward, because the crown of life awaits us, and a seat at God's right hand, where our pleasure is for evermore.

"Forward, brothers, forward!"

As a Methodist, Mr. George Cookman was highly esteemed. He filled important trusts successively in the Green Street, Union, and Arch Street Stations. He was one of the founders of the powerful and prosperous Arch Street Church, having been the first superintendent of its Sunday-school when originally held in a hall, not far from the present site of the church. As showing his capabilities as a Christian worker, let the following extract speak:

"Connecting himself with the Church, he became at once an active and faithful young Christian. His great regret, often expressed, was that he had not started sooner, and, that he might redeem the time, he gave himself to every good word and work.

"Literally wedded to the Arch Street Methodist Episcopal Church enterprise, he was superintendent of the Sunday-school, a trustee, a steward, a class-leader, an exhorter, and leader of Church music. Besides this he was an ex-president of the Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia, a manager of the American Sunday-school Union, a manager of the Philadelphia Tract Society, treasurer of the Pennsylvania Sunday-school Association, and in all these departments of enterprise evinced the greatest interest and activity."\*

The root from which all this official responsibility and honor grew was one of deep, genuine, personal piety.

Writing to his mother as far back as 1863, he said:

"I believe, dear mother, that I am growing in grace and in the knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. I find religion to be all that I expected

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\* *Methodist Home Journal*, October, 1867.

of it, and infinitely more. Christ grows increasingly precious to my poor heart; I find Him a satisfying portion, and realize a joy and comfort which the world can neither give nor take away—and I feel to exclaim, in the language of the hymn we sometimes sing,

“‘Oh, that the world might taste and see  
The riches of His grace;  
The arms of love that compass me,  
Might all mankind embrace!’”

The death of this Christian man, though sudden, was not without premonitions. His health had been precarious for some time, but immediate danger was not apprehended. He lived, however, in constant preparation for death, by living in constant devotion to God and duty. He was almost literally translated from the scenes of his earthly activity and joy.

“During the last few months of his life his experience has been deepening. He stated in a social meeting held lately that he had more fully consecrated himself to God, and had had a new and charming view of the cross.

“His death was sudden. This, indeed, seems to have been according to his own desire; for, in conversation with a Christian friend recently, he expressed a preference for sudden rather than a lingering death. He also desired to die peacefully in his bed, and that his wife should be near by to see him breathe his last—all which, by the will of a kind Providence, was literally fulfilled.

“About an hour before his death he was seated at the melodeon singing a Sabbath-school melody found in Bradbury’s ‘Fresh Laurels.’ He entered with his whole soul into the spirit of the piece, and greatly admired the exquisite music that accompanied the words. The hymn was so singularly and touchingly appropriate to the scene that was so soon to follow that we give it entire:

“‘Oh, I see the shining angels  
Gathering round my dying bed;  
With their harps and crowns of glory,  
Thus a faithful mother said;  
While celestial songs were ringing  
Through the heavenly courts above—  
Seraphs came from glory, bringing  
Blessed words of peace and love.

“ ‘*Chorus.*—When I near death’s stormy billow,  
 And earth’s scenes no more can see ;  
 When I press my dying pillow,  
 Will the angels come to me ?  
 Will they come, will they come,  
 Will the angels come to me ?

\* \* \* \* \*

“ ‘Oh, how sweet to feel their presence  
 In the hushed and silent room ;  
 With their bright and shining faces  
 Gilding all the dusted gloom !  
 When from loved friends I have parted,  
 And their tears are flowing free ;  
 When from Jordan’s banks I’ve started,  
 Will the angels come for me ?’

“After singing these beautiful words he went up to his chamber to realize their sentiments in a dying experience. Like Enoch, ‘*he was not, for God took him.*’”\*

Many were the private and public tributes to the worth of one so singularly pure and useful. The Young Men’s Christian Association held a souvenir meeting in Horticultural Hall, October 13th, at which addresses were delivered by Revs. E. R. Beadle, D.D., and T. M. Griffiths, and by Messrs. P. B. Simons, George W. Mears, James White, George H. Stuart, and John B. Gough. The “Commercial Exchange,” of Philadelphia, of which he was the secretary, called a special meeting, at which appropriate speeches were made by the president, Mr. Howard Hinchman, and others, and suitable resolutions were adopted, highly commendatory of the virtues of the departed merchant and friend.

Wide and deep as was the sorrow felt at the loss of a layman uniting so many qualities of the Christian, the gentleman, and the business man, it could do but little to conduct from the heart of Alfred the ache which settled upon it. Rarely had two brothers been so joined from boyhood ; and, subsequent to

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\* *Methodist Home Journal*, 1867.

George's conversion, their fellowship had been of the most intimate and intense character. There was the most perfect natural and spiritual kinship—they thought, felt, and acted together; and when the one fell it was like tearing from the survivor his other half, the complement of himself.

His own letters will best describe his feelings.

To the Rev. A. Longacre, then pastor of Charles Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Baltimore :

“PHILADELPHIA, October 15, 1867.

\*\*\* “You have doubtless heard of our great sorrow. I mourn the loss of one of the sweetest and best of brothers. The earthward side of this dispensation is desolate beyond expression. I find my soul, however, singing,

“‘Jesus, *brother* of my soul,  
Let me to Thy bosom fly.’

“There I hide with my crippled wing, and realize the comfort that the Divinity supplieth. This is the tenth letter I have written this morning. Wearied, I can not write more. Pray for me.”

To Mrs. Skidmore, of New York :

“PHILADELPHIA, October 29, 1867.

“Your kind letter was most grateful to our afflicted hearts. Christian sympathy, always beautiful in our view, never seemed so charming or valuable as during this eventful October—indeed, I never understood or appreciated its preciousness before. May our prayer-hearing Lord bless abundantly and eternally every dear friend whose lips have breathed or whose actions have evinced interest and love in this time of our family bereavement. God sparing my life, I propose to prize more than ever before the privilege of addressing gentle, loving words to those who are staggering under heavy burdens of trial and sorrow. I need not say to you that I have lost a precious brother. Very nearly of the same age, we were playmates in childhood, companions in youth, confiding, affectionate, and devoted brothers through life. Made instrumental in dear George's conversion about nine years since, that fact seemed to give increased strength and sacredness to the tie that united us.

“During my present pastorate, I have not only had his frequent co-operation in many of our means of grace, but have enjoyed the privilege of spending a part of every Monday at his home. After dining together, we would sit for an hour, living over the past, referring to present interests and



experiences, or unfolding our plans for the future. Now all this is over for this world—*not forever!* Blessed be God, our life has a *future* as well as a past. We knelt at the same mother's knee—aye, and we shall kneel with that same mother and our glorified father in the presence of the enthroned Jesus. We sported in our boyhood on the same lawn—aye, and we shall, in our immortal youth, roam together the

“ ‘Blest fields on the banks of life's river,  
And sing of redemption forever and ever.’

Our present separation is only a parenthesis in our fraternal intercourse. In a little while it shall be resumed, with no prospect or possibility of interruption. George died well! Death found him at his post, faithfully discharging his duties. He worked while it was day, and did his work with his might. During the last few months of his life he was greatly interested respecting his full privilege as a Christian. Attending the International Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations, held in Montreal last May or early in June, he seized the opportunity to make a fresh and an entire consecration of himself to God, and was blessed (as he afterward testified) with a new view of the cross. After this, and until the close of his career, his life was beautiful and fragrant with the precious plants of the Christian graces.

“The Wednesday evening before he died he stood up in an experience-meeting, and remarked that he was physically feeble and could not say much, but his experience might be expressed in that beautiful stanza,

“ ‘Tis Jesus, the First and the Last,  
Whose Spirit shall guide me *straight* home ;  
I'll praise Him for all that is past,  
And trust Him for all that's to come.’

“I could thus fill pages with blessed reminiscences. Death has an earthward side. I never understood that so well as now. Sometimes during the last four weeks, when I have entered his former home or stood by his newly made grave, and thought of my earthly deprivation, I have realized a sense of desolation that has quite unmanned me. My relief and consolation is in mounting to the heavenward side. In that direction the brightness and the attraction increase. The line, ‘Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,’ never meant so much or seemed so sweet as now. You know I have always been your attached brother, but since this sudden bereavement I feel more closely drawn to you than ever, for I am reminded that an almost identical experience in the loss of your beloved sister prepares you to understand the greatest trial of my life. We sit together at the Master's feet, and realize a

new sympathy in the same difficult lesson which the providence of God has appointed for our development and advantage. But perhaps I am presuming upon your interest in our family sorrow. If so, you will understand and generously excuse me."

To the Rev. A. Longacre, of Baltimore :

"PHILADELPHIA, November 1, 1867.

"I thank you for your kind letter. May Heaven abundantly recompense you for all your affectionate words. I know the deep love that subsists among the members of your father's family, and in this matter recognize the resemblance between our households to which you refer. May our gracious Lord keep your happy circle unbroken for many years. Knowing your family nearly all my life, and intimately associated with some of you for a number of years, I feel a more than ordinary nearness and interest and love.

"How gladly I would respond to your wishes, and spend a week in that part of the vineyard you are appointed to cultivate! Unfortunately, however, for such an arrangement, I have engaged to be in Poughkeepsie on the 10th of November, and to assist in dedicating Brother Thompson's new church, Germantown, on the 17th. Thus my Sabbaths for the present month are all filled up. I rejoice to hear of your continued prosperity. May God send you a steady rain until, every plant refreshed, your interesting charge shall be as a well-watered garden rich with the beauty and fragrance of heaven.

"Dr. and Mrs. Palmer conclude to-day their labors at Central. I have attended some of their morning services. The audiences have been small—not nearly so large as at their afternoon and evening meetings—but the influences have been most gracious. On Friday last God vouchsafed us a season of great interest and power. Your beloved sister had wonderful access in prayer—indeed, it was the testimony of her friends present that they never heard her as on that occasion."

To the Rev. A. Longacre, of Baltimore :

"PHILADELPHIA, November 15, 1867.

"Sincerely disposed to heed your Macedonian cry, I am nevertheless considerably embarrassed respecting a decision. On the first Sabbath of this month Dr. Wentworth preached for me during the day. Last Sabbath I was in Poughkeepsie. Next Sabbath Dr. Kynett, or one of the bishops, will take my Church Extension collection. Three Sabbath mornings out of my pulpit. Then on the first Sabbath of December, the day of our Com-

munion, Brother G. Hughes expects to preach and take the Freedmen's collection. I do not see how I can very consistently absent myself before the latter part of December, and that is so close on the holiday season that most probably it would be an inopportune time for the object that you contemplate. These are just my circumstances, and I state them the more frankly because I know that, as a pastor yourself, you can understand and appreciate them.

"We had a most delightful visit to New York and Poughkeepsie—saw many cherished friends—were refreshed at the Tuesday meeting—praise the Lord! Rev. Newman Hall has been in our city, interesting and impressing large congregations. If he visits Baltimore, you will do well to secure him for one of your services. Last night we had the anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association—a magnificent audience and a splendid time. Dr. Hall, of New York, recently of Dublin, made *the* speech of the evening. Revs. E. Clark, of New Haven, and Phillips Brooks were the other speakers. The occasion was a grand success.

"Mrs. Simpson, I understand, is on her way home with Charles. The Western tour has been of little service, and the dear fellow, as we judge, returns to die. I refer to these items because I know they will interest you. My soul, this morning, is sweetly resting in Jesus. Oh, is it possible that I, so insignificant and unworthy, should be lifted above angels and archangels, and be indulged with a resting-place in the bosom of Infinite Love! I can only wonder and adore. God bless you, my precious brother. How I could enjoy a few days with you at Charles Street! Perhaps our kind Heavenly Father, the God of providence and grace, may open the way, and situate us side by side on the battle-field."

To the Rev. A. Longacre, of Baltimore :

"PHILADELPHIA, November 19, 1867.

"I hasten to reply to your urgent request. Next week will bring our annual Thanksgiving. The preparation of an appropriate discourse will take some of the preceding days, so that absence from home will be impracticable. Respecting the first week in December, I can not write very certainly, for we are holding ourselves in readiness for extra services at any moment. Most of the charges around are engaged in protracted meetings, some with a good measure of success. At Central the good seed sown is producing fruit. Oh, how gladly would I gratify you in the wish you express! I understand and appreciate your importunity, and only regret that my circumstances should make it necessary. God bless you, my darling brother. You do not know how dear you are to my heart. If my meeting does not begin, and I

can advantageously serve you for two or three evenings week after next, I will cheerfully make the effort to be with you."

"PHILADELPHIA, November 29, 1867.

"DEAR BROTHER ANDREW,—This has been a most trying week. The preparation of a Thanksgiving sermon and a speech besides was enough to fill up my mind. In addition to this we have had our home overflowing with company, and an importunate committee from Brooklyn, begging me to accept the pastorate of the new St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church. A mind full of suspense and hands full of pressing work. This is my apology for not replying more promptly to your letter. On Monday we have a meeting of our Camp-meeting Committee in this city. I think I can not come to Baltimore next week. If I see my way clear for the week after, I will let you know. Oh, what would I not give for a face-to-face *tête-à-tête* with you to-day! I want so much your good judgment to help me decide some questions connected with my next year's pastoral destination."

"PHILADELPHIA, December 4, 1867.

"DEAR ANDREW,—Every morning of this week so far I have resigned myself to the tender mercies of Dr. Kingsbury, the dentist; nevertheless, I have commenced an extra meeting, and am engaged every night in leading or striving to lead the flock nearer the fountain of spiritual power and blessing. How I will be situated next week I can not definitely say; but if any religious interest develops here, I can not, of course, leave the home work. The Brooklyn transfer can not disturb you as it has perplexed and annoyed me. I thought I was anchored in my mother Conference—had no wish or idea of leaving—doors were opening—my humble services were in some demand, when, lo! the new St. John's Church, through their committee, makes a most unanimous and earnest request for my transfer and appointment. I have virtually declined—said every thing in opposition, every thing but an emphatic '*No.*' This I have hesitated to express, lest I might be taking my lot too much in my own hands. Bishop Janes holds the whole matter under advisement. Be very sure I do not want to leave Philadelphia. The Camp-meeting Committee turn toward Lancaster County as perhaps the most central and desirable location for next year's meeting."

If any one is tempted to regard the life of the popular city pastor as one of delicious ease, free from care and perplexity, running like a summer stream through a grassy meadow, let him ponder the above letters, and this of the same season.

To his sister, Miss Mary B. Cookman :

"I fully intended writing last week, but my duties multiplied and became so urgent that it was simply impossible. Really I have a great deal to do ; every day brings me letters asking for different kinds of service, and these have to be answered. Sermons must be prepared, various meetings attended, and the interests of a large family supervised, besides a great deal of outside and irregular work. All this burdens my brain, and sometimes terribly troubles my soul. I do not know what I should do if I could not cast my burden on the Lord, and plead His own precious promise, 'Lo, I am with you alway.'

"But I did not mean this personal experience when I commenced my letter. I thank you for your sisterly epistle. All your sentiments of true, warm love are fully reciprocated. I deeply appreciate and sincerely praise God for your undisguised confidence and tender affection. Blessed with many true, kind friends, I always feel that there are a few hearts on which I may lean with the most implicit trust, and yours is one of that small number. May our faithful and loving Heavenly Father continue to bless you with every needful temporal and spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus.

"It was encouraging to hear that my humble efforts in Poughkeepsie were appreciated by the people. Certainly we enjoyed beyond expression the two days we were permitted to spend in John's parish. Aside from every thing else, the society of our beloved mother furnished a feast for our affectional nature. It is enough to sit in her presence and live over the eventful years that have irrevocably passed. The privilege always makes me feel the deprivation we suffer in our present separation. Never mind. In a little while we will sit down together in the heavenly home, and enjoy each other with no prospect or fear that our happy intercourse shall ever again be interrupted. Heaven is coming nearer, and growing more attractive.

"Last week, with Saide and Annie, I visited dear George's grave. It is a hallowed spot—one of the most sacred to me in all the world. Oh, with what thoughts and feelings did I linger near the lifeless remains of that sweetest of brothers ! My sense of loss for a moment came upon me overwhelmingly, for there was no one of my own sex that loved me so tenderly as that dear man. We lived in one another's smile, and those smiles intermingling, threw blessed sunshine on life's pathway. His spirit seems almost constantly with me, but at his grave I felt that both body and spirit were near, and I almost communed as in the former time. Laurel Hill ! blessed hill ! My Pisgah now from whence I look over to the graveless land."

Laurel Hill was within the next few months to become even more sacred and precious, by reason of others who should be

gathered to its silent bosom. In the spring following he was called as the pastor of Bishop Simpson's family to stand by the dying bed of their son, Mr. Charles Simpson, and to administer to him and to them the consolations which now more than ever experience had taught him to understand. He had seen its embrace receive his ministerial friends Munroe, Heston, and Brainard, his young friend Simpson, his child Rebecca, his brother George; but the grave was yet unsatisfied, and the demand soon came for one even nearer and dearer than all the rest. His eldest son, Bruner, who had so long struggled with disease, and who at times had given signs of improvement with the hope of ultimate recovery, at last succumbed to the destroyer. The brave boy died March 2d, 1868. Thus the shadows thickened around the devout pastor and his family. Yet in the deepest darkness he retained his cheerfulness; under all the suffering his spirit—as grapes when pressed give forth the invigorating juice—seemed to grow in saintliness both as to intrinsic depth and visible influence.

“The darts of anguish fix not  
Where the seat of suffering is thoroughly fortified  
By acquiescence in the will supreme.”

The following “BIOGRAPHY OF A GOOD BOY” was written by Mr. Cookman, and afterward published by request in the *Meth-  
odist Home Journal*, and is so creditable alike to father and son, and so well adapted to benefit the youthful readers of this volume, that I insert it almost entire:

#### “BIOGRAPHY OF A GOOD BOY.

“Our precious son, Alfred Bruner Cookman, brought to our home great joy, and for nearly sixteen years was a constant satisfaction and comfort. If there is such a thing as natural goodness, he seemed to be its fortunate possessor. His instincts were all in the direction of virtue and propriety. Strictly conscientious, we never heard of his uttering either a profane or an obscene word. No one ever suspected him of any thing like falsehood. As our memory serves us now, we can not recall a single act of disobedience

to his parents. In the family circle he stood as a faithful little monitor, constantly careful respecting the morals, habits, manners, and appearance of his brothers and sisters. Naturally dignified and thoughtful, he impressed all by his quiet movements, his perfect politeness, and his singular sense of propriety.

"With these superior qualities of character he associated fine intellectual characteristics. His feeble health, extending through a number of years, had hindered somewhat his literary culture, nevertheless few boys of his age had read so much. He was a voracious reader. Sometimes we would chide him for his application to his book, and had literally to drive him into other exercises.

"In the use of his pencil he evinced great taste and skill. An amateur artist of Philadelphia, after looking at some of his productions, congratulated us on his superior talent, suggesting that it furnished promise of future fame.

"In his recitations on the occasions of anniversaries and public-meetings (exercises that he always enjoyed), he was graceful, impressive, and popular. It is a significant fact in this connection that his last, and one of his happiest declamations, was 'The Burial of Sir John Moore.'

"His thoughtfulness revealed itself in his attention to and remembrance of sermons, the numerous questions he would ask on scriptural, theological, and general subjects, and his interest on the vital question of his personal salvation.

"Five years since, when we expected him to die, he professed to experience on his bed of sickness the forgiveness of his sins. When he partially recovered, one of his first wishes expressed was to unite himself with the Church. Accordingly, on the first Sabbath of 1863, when he was ten years of age, his dear mother led him to the altar, while his father had the exceeding joy of welcoming him as a probationer in the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, in the city of New York.

"His Christian life was marked by consistency of conduct and strict attention to religious duty. His prayers were never forgotten. His Bible was read every day. His class-meeting was regularly attended. Fond of his Sabbath-school he was always in his place, and for his teacher and classmates cherished a special love. Those classmates had the melancholy privilege of bearing his precious body carefully and lovingly to its last resting-place.

"Since our dear boy's death we have found his diary, kept when he was but twelve years of age. A few extracts will throw some light on his character and life.

"January 8, 1865, he writes: 'To-day I have experienced religion. In

the afternoon I went up to the altar, but did not find Christ. In the evening I found him. Glory to God.' This was rather a restoration of the joys of God's salvation.

"February 2: 'To-day we had a surprise party at Mrs. T.'s.' Then he records what he and his little brothers and companions gave this humble and afflicted widow, and concludes the account thus: 'Then we sung hymns, spoke pieces, Mrs. A—— prayed, and we went home.'

"About the same date he writes: 'Glory to God, the slaves are free.'

"April 3, he says: 'This afternoon we heard that Richmond and Petersburg are taken by Grant and Sheridan; I had the house illuminated for the victory. Praise God for victory.'

"April 15, he writes: 'This morning we had awful news; President Lincoln is dead.' He then records all the particulars of the assassination, and appends the sentiment, 'Thy will be done.'

"About the same time he records: 'My sister Beekie died April 10, 1865. We miss her. Papa and mamma say she looked more beautiful in death than in life. She is an angel in heaven to-day. Sweet be her sleep.'

"Observe, these are extracts from the journal of our Christian boy when he was but twelve years of age, and living in New York City.

"During our pleasant pastorate at Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, his health seemed better. He was able to go to school, and, as his teachers testify, was obedient, studious, and ambitious to excel. In his boyish sports he was hearty and very happy. Though some of his companions had more of physical strength, yet none of them seemed to enter more deeply into the spirit of the enjoyment than he did. His associates all said of him, Alfred Bruner Cookman *is a good boy*—good at school, good on the street, good at play, good in his words, good in his temper, good in his actions—and so he was.

" 'None knew him but to love him,  
None named him but to praise.'

"Soon after he came to Philadelphia, three years since, he helped to establish a boy's Sabbath-evening prayer-meeting. At this service quite a number of his young friends professed to experience the pardon of sin—among the rest the son of our beloved Bishop Simpson. Thus his life flowed along beautifully and lovingly and usefully, until the latter part of January last, when a deep cold fell upon his heart (his feeble organ), developing in the form of *pericarditis*. His illness was attended with great pain, obstinate fever, and frequent oppression, that soon robbed him of strength and flesh. Sitting in an upright position, sometimes for days and nights together, with his feet fearfully swollen, he nevertheless possessed his soul



in beautiful patience. No one heard from him one word of murmuring or repining. Every day his Bible was carefully read, while in his devotions he would insist on kneeling down, despite all his disability, and would spend long seasons in communion with God.

"To his father he gave the assurance that *his trust was in Christ*, and *Jesus* was precious. When asked if all was well in an eternal point of view, he answered, 'Yes, sir.'

"The last day of his life, March 2, reason was trembling on her throne. He seemed oblivious to the presence of relatives and friends, and was, to all human appearance, the subject of intense suffering. This of course terribly taxed the sensibilities of his sympathizing parents and kindred. Concerned that he should have relief, the family were called to prayer. They knelt around Bruner's dying bed. They asked God, if in accordance with His will, to save the dear boy from his apparent suffering, and to give him a moment of consciousness before his death, that he might indulge us with a look of recognition that would be a last precious legacy. God mercifully heard and answered our prayer. Very soon the dear suffering boy sank into a quiet slumber that continued until near midnight.

"About ten minutes to twelve, with respiration interrupted, he suddenly opened his large blue eyes, never brighter or more beautiful, and looked around lovingly on his parents and friends. At that moment a ray from the more excellent glory darted upon and quite illumined his face and form. This halo was perceived and enjoyed by every one in the room. His greatly afflicted mother, with his hand clasped in hers, said, 'I give you to Jesus, Brunie, I couldn't give you to any other; oh, say, don't you know me, my angel boy? don't you know your precious mamma?' He gave her a sweet smile of recognition—the legacy desired, the prayer answered—then closed his eyes in death, and his beautiful spirit was with the angels.

"Our glorified boy! We praise God for the temporary loan. It made earth more beautiful, it makes heaven more attractive."

It is not often that extempore prayer is offered at the grave in these days; it is even more seldom that a father is known to offer audible prayer at the grave of a son. Some time after the funeral the body of Bruner was privately interred in the presence of the immediate family, on which occasion Mr. Cookman prayed with great unction, tenderness, and faith. An aged gentleman,\* of the Society of Friends, who was in the cemetery at the time,

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\* Mr. John Jay Smith, of Philadelphia.

attracted by the funeral, stood at a respectful distance from the scene ; and as he listened in silent, subdued wonder at Mr. Cookman's prayer, he said substantially to himself, "If the grace of God can give such power to a bereaved father, then I need it." He afterward sought for this power, and found it. At the time, he and Mr. Cookman were utter strangers to each other, but subsequently they became intimately acquainted, and Mr. Cookman had the happiness of greeting him as a brother in Christ. Subsequently Mr. Cookman wrote him :

\* \* \* "I am so deeply thankful and sincerely joyful whenever I think of you—brought in in advanced life, when the chances all seemed to be against such a result. And then that I should have had any share (as a humble and unworthy instrument) in this blessed consummation ! My soul sinks down in adoring love. You will realize great rest in committing the keeping of your soul and little all into the hands of your Almighty Saviour. Feel that He is carefully preserving what you have given into His hands, and that until you deliberately or willfully withdraw your offering and your trust He will keep, leaving you only to love and to enjoy—." \* \* \*

Another letter to the same is appropriate here.

To Mr. John J. Smith, of Philadelphia :

"WILMINGTON, December 24, 1870.

"I desire to acknowledge the receipt of your most welcome letter, and at the same time wish you a very happy Christmas. Will it not be the best Christmas of your protracted life ? The best, because of the sweet consciousness that your divine Friend is now affectionately remembered. HE GIVES YOU HIMSELF *for your Christmas present*, and you in return give Him yourself. Thus there is a beautiful, blessed exchange of gifts ; only we are infinitely the gainers by this merciful arrangement.

"I am glad to know that your heart overflows with thankfulness and love to that dear Saviour who, at the eleventh hour, has made you a miracle of His wondrous grace. Praise Him continually, trust Him implicitly, love Him with a childlike love, and in a little while you shall bow in His glorified presence, and offer Him not gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but the more acceptable tribute of a grateful and devoted heart. Eighteen hundred and seventy closes well for you ; the last pages record that J. Jay Smith is a little child sitting at the Saviour's feet. I trust I belong to the same blessed

class. We are brother scholars in the school of Jesus, and I indulge the hope that our friendship, overleaping the River of Death, shall continue and increase as long as eternal ages roll.

"The evening we spent at your beautiful home was one of the happiest of my life. It will long be a very feast of memory.

"And now I must close my note. Give our tenderest love to your dear wife and daughter, and son L——, whose acquaintance I was glad to form. Is there not a most cheering prospect that you will be a united family in Christ in this world, and afterward an undivided household in heaven. God bless you all."

Reference has already been made to the deaths of the Rev. Newton Heston and the Rev. Dr. Brainard. Mr. Heston, pastor of the State Street Congregational Church in Brooklyn, was originally a Methodist preacher in the Philadelphia Conference, and a close friend of Mr. Cookman's. When he withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Church, Mr. Cookman did not withdraw his love from him, but continued to esteem him as a brother; and when Mr. Heston fell suddenly in his work, he very sincerely mourned his loss. He preached a memorial sermon in the Spring Garden Street Church. This sermon was afterward published by request of the trustees of State Street Church, and remains a generous tribute of his brotherly affection.

Dr. Brainard was for many years one of the most active and useful pastors in the Presbyterian pulpit of Philadelphia. Kindred sympathies and labors brought him and Mr. Cookman into frequent and genial intercourse. In a private letter to the editor of *The Evangelist*, New York, Mr. Cookman referred to Dr. Brainard in terms which the editor was pleased afterward to apply as equally applicable to Mr. Cookman himself:

"Associated with him at anniversaries, union meetings, social gatherings, and under various circumstances, I came to estimate him as a *prince* among men. His disciplined and cultivated mind, ready and elegant utterances, natural and beautiful manners, unselfish and catholic spirit, self-denying and multiplied labors, and useful Christian life, made him a power and a blessing wherever known—and now, as we think of him, furnish a very feast of remembrance. I thank God that I ever knew Dr. Brainard.

"Dr. Arnot, in his life of James Hamilton, says: 'All is not lost to the world when a good man dies; his character remains behind to enrich the community, as certainly as the rich man's wealth remains behind to enrich the estate of his heirs.' Dr. Brainard's character lives—lives in the characters of others that it is strengthening and building up. I cheerfully acknowledge my indebtedness to Dr. Brainard for the inspiration of his pure example, the glow of his living piety, and the cheer of his noble, generous, loving soul. I am a better man because he lived. Dr. Brainard made earth more beautiful, and makes heaven more attractive."

In the autumn of 1868 Mr. Cookman was called upon to follow to the grave the remains of another cherished minister, the Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, D.D., pastor of the Church of the New Testament, Philadelphia, a man whose reputation for piety, eloquence, learning, and patriotism was as broad as the continent. Dr. Stockton and his father had been pulpit rivals in their youth, while Alfred was a child; afterward the devout and seraphic Stockton and the son were brought into the closest fellowship, and sustained to each other a relationship as familiar and tender as that of father and son. Mr. Cookman was accustomed through the last years of the Doctor's feeble health to visit him frequently, and to sit at his feet with the utmost teachableness, and listen to conversations which, for far-reaching wisdom and spiritual insight, have not been excelled by the words of any divine of our times. The Rev. Alexander Clark, editor of the *Methodist Recorder*, who rode with him at Dr. Stockton's funeral, writes, "I shall never forget his tender, brotherly words in the carriage as we rode together in the funeral procession. \* \* \* How those two consecrated souls loved each other! Now they share the great glory together!"

## CHAPTER XX.

GRACE CHURCH, WILMINGTON, DELAWARE.—THE NATIONAL AND OTHER CAMP-MEETINGS.—MISSIONARY JUBILEE.

WITH the spring of 1868 the pastorate of Spring Garden charge closed—three years of arduous labor and much suffering, but of as decided success and joy as any ministerial term Mr. Cookman had yet spent. Long before the session of Conference the question of his next appointment was agitated. Committees from various churches, within and without his own Conference, waited on him with urgent demands for his services—among them one from the new St. John's Church, Brooklyn, New York. As we have seen from his correspondence, he did not wish to leave the Philadelphia Conference, but desired to regard it as home. He was, however, induced to consent to go to Brooklyn if the bishops thought it advisable; and for some time his transfer to the St. John's charge was regarded as a settled arrangement.

Meanwhile another claim sprang up in a call from the new Grace Church, Wilmington, Delaware. Both churches were as substantial, capacious, and beautiful as any yet erected by the Methodist Episcopal Church; the claims seemed equally balanced, and both invitations were to him certainly highly complimentary. The opinions of the bishops decided for Grace Church. As this Church was in his own Conference, no transfer was necessary, and hence the appointment was the more easily effected. Many of Mr. Cookman's friends in New York and Brooklyn were sorely disappointed in the result, and no one felt more sincerely grieved than himself that what appeared to be the wisest judgment was against the removal to

Brooklyn. While the matter was pending he would often exclaim, "Oh, for a voice from heaven!"

Again was his lot cast with a people who had shown great zeal for the cause of God in the erection of a superb and commodious structure for divine worship at a cost of \$200,000. It is doubtful if a more beautiful pile can be found, or one more admirably adapted in all its appointments for the services of religion. The exterior of the building, the *tout ensemble*, is very imposing, while the interior arrangements are both tasteful and convenient, with every possible facility for public worship, for Sunday-school work, and the equally important social meetings. Grace Church is really the ornament of Wilmington City. In building such a house a heavy debt was incurred, and there consequently devolved upon the newly appointed pastor a corresponding care; but as was his custom, he went cheerfully to work, seeking to affect the financial condition of the charge through its spiritual life. Wilmington, with a population of thirty thousand, and a Methodist population of twenty-four hundred, offered a delightful field for the preaching and social talents of the new pastor. His ministry began immediately to impress the community, and very soon a large congregation filled the Church. Persons of all classes and professions, of every religious denomination, became either regular or occasional attendants upon the preaching and the social services. The Sunday-school, with its large rooms and efficient control, grew to great proportions, and in all the elements of strength and self-propagating power. It soon projected a mission-school, known as the Epworth Chapel.

The customary meeting for the promotion of holiness was established. Such a meeting was now with him a necessity, not only of his ministry, but of his personal religious life. He must gather some of his flock and of the Christian community, however few, into the closest fellowship, for the distinct purpose of conference and prayer upon the great subject which he believed

to lie at the very foundation of individual and Church growth. When a little dissent from his opinions and plans was expressed—though feeling sometimes that he was misunderstood—he would simply reply to the suggestion of friends that he should explain himself, “Oh! the Lord Jesus has my reputation in his keeping; I have committed it all to him, and he will take care of it.” There were those in the charge who were not prepared to accept his teachings on Christian purity; but who as time wore on espoused them, and became the strongest supporters of his ministry and his warmest personal friends. The Wednesday-afternoon meeting was soon an institution of the Church and of the city, and comprised among its habitual attendants members of all the orthodox churches, of whom none were more constant and prominent than many of the Society of Friends.

Mr. Cookman’s ministry had always had a charm for these godly, thoughtful people—probably on account of its exceeding simplicity and spirituality—but never before did he obtain among them such marked influence as in Wilmington. They feasted on his words with as much regularity and zest as his own members. They took him to their hearts and homes—a partaker of their quiet, unostentatious hospitality, breathing the pure atmosphere of their simple piety, he returned their kindness and confidence with the benefactions of a spiritual prince.

The pleasant impressions received by Mr. Cookman on his first appearance in his new charge, as told in letters to his wife, were more than confirmed by succeeding results.

To his wife :

“WILMINGTON, Saturday afternoon, 1868.

“Here I am, sitting in Mr. H.’s store, corner of Market and Third Streets, using his desk and implements in redeeming my promise of a letter to-day. A pleasant journey yesterday brought me to Philadelphia about one P.M., and at four o’clock I started in the steam-boat for Wilmington. Brother R—— was a fellow-passenger, with whom I had a great deal of pleasant conversation. At half-past six Brother S—— and lady gave me a cordial welcome.

The prayer-meeting in the evening was largely attended, and a most solemn and profitable season. Rev. Brother Lightbourn was there. The friends seemed to enjoy it wonderfully. The people are as kind as they can be, and express great interest to see us comfortably established in our new home. This morning I called at the parsonage. Every thing is very neat and comfortable. The carpets are all down, except the parlor carpet, which is on the floor, and will be tacked on Monday. The furniture used in the parlor of their previous parsonage, hair-cloth sofa and chairs, has been placed in the sitting-room, and green velvet furniture purchased for the present parlor. I think you will like and enjoy your new home. This morning I had a long walk with Brother S——. Wilmington, especially in its environs, is a beautiful city. Providence permitting, we will have some delightful strolls together along the far-famed Brandywine," etc.

To his wife :

"GRACE PARSONAGE, WILMINGTON, DEL., April 9, 1868.

"At my study table again ! in one of the nicest, coziest studies I have had for many years. You will want a detail of proceedings, and, as I am a systematic man, it will be better to commence with Sunday. Preached twice ; in the morning on 'Old paths,' in the evening on the 'One thing needful ;' administered the Sacrament and made an address. It was a glorious day ; congregation magnificent ; Sacrament the most blessed service of that kind I have enjoyed for years. Friends seemed in highest spirits, and my soul praised God. Monday our goods were delivered at the parsonage. I unwrapped the furniture, unpacked the piano, my pictures, and a part of my books. Monday night and Tuesday it rained like a young deluge, and as some of the goods were getting wet, and I was almost alone, I concluded it was better for me to unpack a little more. The house began to look like home when I started on Tuesday in the rain for Philadelphia.

"At half-past one or a quarter to two R—— and the children arrived. I intended to have taken them in the steam-boat at four P.M., but they had ordered their carriage to the dépôt, and so, after lunching in the city, we left again in the half-past-three train. The friends had carriages, expecting us by the steam-boat, but we anticipated them. Proceeding to the parsonage, we took the ladies a little by surprise. It did not, however, make the slightest difference. The children are delighted with their new home. Frank says it is delightful, and thinks his mamma will enjoy it very much, and, indeed, every thing is very pretty and very comfortable. It suits me. The trustees and their wives gave us a most affectionate welcome. Supper was provided and served—fried oysters, chicken salad, ham, rolls, Maryland biscuits,



sliced oranges, cakes, tea, coffee, etc. The evening was spent most delightfully. About half-past ten, when they would leave, I proposed some singing, and then knelt down and offered our new home to God. It was a season of interest and comfort.

"This morning I have been arranging my books, while Rebecca is here, there, and every where—the best sister-in-law that the Lord ever made. The boys behaved beautifully last evening. I was proud of them. This morning they have been helping me with my books, but now they are out in the field enjoying a game of ball. This evening they are all invited to a birthday-party at Brother B.'s. If the weather is favorable I think Rebecca and the children will make a little excursion to Philadelphia to-morrow in the steam-boat. Going at seven A.M., they can have nearly seven hours in the city. Rebecca says I must tell you there are mattresses on every bed, blankets on every bed, pillows for every bed, sheets for every bed, etc. Providence permitting, I wish to start for Columbia on Monday, and bring you to the city on Tuesday. Then you must decide where you will stay, for all want you. Wednesday, after interring our dear boy, we will leave for Columbia."

The summer of 1868 opened auspiciously, and Mr. Cookman entered, about the middle of July, upon the customary religious campaign. The first camp-meeting was that of the National Association, held at Manheim, Lancaster County, Pa. The location had been selected by himself. The attendance from North, East, West, and South exceeded all expectations—the friends of the cause came together from the remotest parts of the country. A correspondent of *The Daily Spy*, of Columbia, in writing under date of July 20th, spoke of the Sunday and its services as follows:

"MANHEIM, July 20, 1868.

"MR. EDITOR,—We have been permitted to spend a Sabbath at camp-meeting, and truly it was a day long to be remembered for the crowds of people and clouds of dust. The atmosphere was like Egyptian darkness—an atmosphere 'that might be felt.' The streams of dusty humanity which flowed along, from early morn till late in the evening, seemed to have but one object in view—to see what was to be seen, and raise, or keep up, the already thick clouds of choking dust that pervaded tents, eyes, ears, hair, and clothes of all. I would not, after all, have been absent for a valua-

ble consideration. To have the privilege of attending the experience-meeting at the stand at eight o'clock in itself would compensate for all the sweltering and crowding to which we were exposed. There were nearly, if not quite, five hundred witnesses for Jesus, who gladly stood up and declared, in the face of Heaven and the vast crowd by which they were surrounded, that the blood of Jesus Christ had cleansed them from all sin. This was the largest experience-meeting I ever saw, and such a holy feeling pervaded the assembly that happiness, peace, and joy were portrayed on every countenance. Again and again could be heard the loud cry of 'Glory to God!' It required no stretch of imagination to liken them to the hosts of the Most High while going up to possess the goodly land. Truly the Lord of Hosts was among His people. These exercises were continued nearly to the preaching hour—ten o'clock. A few remarks of caution and advice were made by Presiding Elder Gray, in his usual clear and decisive manner, telling the people that Bishop Simpson, who was to preach, could be heard by all, if perfect stillness was observed. At the appointed hour the Bishop advanced to the stand, and, looking out over the sea of upturned faces, gave out the hymn commencing with, 'When I survey the wondrous cross,' etc. After prayer, he read for the first lesson the nineteenth Psalm, and for the second the eighth of Romans. The text was Romans, eighth chapter and fourteenth verse—'As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.' The sermon was all that expectation could hope for or the heart could desire. The time occupied in delivery was one hour and twenty minutes, and, although on many heads the sun poured down his fierce and sickening rays, the attention was constant and the interest unflagging. The good Bishop opened up a vista of happiness and glory to many anxious souls, knowing that in heaven they have a 'more enduring inheritance.'

"In the afternoon Rev. Mr. Inskip occupied the stand. This discourse I did not hear; but in the evening, at half-past seven o'clock, the Rev. Alfred Cookman, with all that earnestness and Christian sympathy for which he is distinguished, kept the assembly interested, while he showed the deep necessity of making a full surrender of *all* to God.

"The afternoon children's prayer-meeting in the Columbia tent was to the 'little ones' a happy time. I felt for the children; the warm day was quite enough to bear, but to be inclosed by a wall of unthinking men and women was quite too bad. The exercises were well worthy of attention, but a thought for the comfort of the children should have been enough to scatter the crowd that walled up both ends of the tent."

Mr. Cookman, as might be expected, was every where present

and active throughout the meeting. He was selected to preach the sermon on Sunday evening. The responsibility he felt to be well-nigh insupportable, but after unusual time spent in prayer and meditation, he chose his subject and went to the pulpit, when to his surprise the conviction was forcibly made upon his mind — "You must abandon your sermon and tell your experience." He yielded reluctantly to what seemed to be the Spirit's guidance. As he proceeded to narrate the manner in which God had led him, particularly into the blessing of full salvation, the impression upon the congregation deepened with every word, until the effect was overwhelming. The immense audience was entirely subdued, notes of victory rang over the whole ground, and throughout the night from every tent might be heard the songs of spiritual joy.\*

Such was the impulse† given to the National Association by the Manheim meeting that it was resolved to hold at least two meetings during the coming year. Beyond this meeting there is no distinct record of Mr. Cookman's movements among the camp-meetings of the summer. It is likely that he took his accustomed tour.

The ensuing autumn and winter found him steadily devoted

\* Correspondence of *The Methodist*, August 1: "None who were privileged to be present will ever forget the Sunday evening when Rev. Alfred Cookman led the congregation to God, and pressed upon them, with masterly and persuasive eloquence, the question of true spiritual power as connected with personal holiness, and in a most fervent prayer led the congregation to the cross. Men fell under the mighty power of God in all parts of the ground. This was only equaled by the wonderful Pentecostal season of Monday evening."

† *Ibid.*: "The entire meeting was wonderfully well managed. I never saw such excellent generalship as that displayed by them. This meeting must tell on the entire Church of the present with power. Ministers and people humbled themselves that God might exalt the Church with His wonderful power, and clothe it with the glory of God that rested upon the ancient altars."

to his pastoral work, with such occasional outside engagements as claimed him throughout his career. Very soon a gracious influence began to pervade the congregation. All the means of grace increased in the numbers who frequented them. The meeting for holiness grew not only in numbers but in unction, and worked like leaven through the whole religious community. The ordinary prayer-meetings were thronged, and awakenings and conversions were of common occurrence. Before the winter had passed a deep and thorough revival of religion took place, and many accessions were made to the Church. The revival thus began continued with more or less power during the entire term, resulting from year to year in the salvation of penitent sinners and in the purification of believers—in view of the results of which one has said, “I believe eternity alone will reveal the good he accomplished at Grace.” While the congregation and Sunday-school generally shared in the blessed fruits, the students of the Wesleyan Female College participated largely in them—very many of the young ladies were converted and established in the principles and habits of a Christian life.

Two letters of this period are valuable as expressions of private friendship and personal piety, and as showing the growth of religion in the Church.

To Mrs. Lewis, of Columbus, Ohio :

“WILMINGTON, February 1, 1869.

\*\*\* “Our affection for you and Homer, ten years old, has attained to quite a stature—is strong and healthy, has a divinity in its life, and promises to be not only a joy in this world, but a beautiful angel in the Paradise of everlasting blessedness. \*\*\* I am still asking for my New-year’s gift, and will accept it just as thankfully now as though it had been given coeval with my first petition. My faithful Lord gave me with the beginning of the year one of the most important men in Grace Church, to be a friend if not a professor of holiness, and I felt that this was almost more than I could have asked or thought, and called for songs of loudest praise. He is also giving me light, strength, comfort, and unction. Freedom from myself

and the fullest liberty of the sons of God, is what I am specially longing for." \* \* \*

To Mrs. Stevens, of Wilmington, while absent at the funeral of her mother :

"WILMINGTON, June 10, 1869.

\* \* \* "Best of all, in New York or in Delaware, you may confidently ask for the special grace of Him whose promises are the brightest stars in our firmament during the dark night of sorrow and affliction. The Infinite Jehovah is your 'Husband,' your 'Father,' your 'Mother.' He takes the place of all the loved and lost, and promises sympathy, watch-care, support, and blessing in every affectionate relationship of life.

"I remember your venerable mother with a great deal of interest and pleasure. Her native strength of character, good common-sense, sober intelligence, quiet but dignified manner, through which her gentle, sympathizing, and loving nature sent forth bright beams to illumine and gladden other lives—all this strongly and happily impressed me with a sense of her great worth. I have no doubt that you will feel an increased tenderness for every body's mother now, and for all women who are beginning to grow old. Do not think of your mother as having gone away. *No love, no life, goes ever from us—it goes as He (Jesus) went, that it may come again, deeper and closer and surer, and be with us always, even to the end of the world.*

"But I will not prolong my letter. Every thing moves on in Wilmington about as it did when you were here. Our Wednesday meeting yesterday was unusually rich in testimony and unctuous in influence. We felt that we were lifted up to sit as in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. The Friday-evening meeting is well attended. On last Sabbath your name was called as one of the list of probationers who, having stood out a satisfactory probation, were entitled to the privileges of full membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was a beautiful sight to see the altar surrounded by those whom I might entitle 'our joy and crown of rejoicing.'"

To Mr. Edward Moore, of Wilmington, who was sojourning in Paris :

"June 10, 1869.

"Shall I say that Jesus continues unspeakably precious in my experience? He teaches me, leads me, helps me, and guards me; but, best of all, *saves me*—does not save me from human weakness or fallibility or infirmities, but does save me from my sins. Oh, how I love to love Jesus! We are almost counting the weeks now until your return. The time will soon transpire, and then we will again 'together sweetly live.'"

The Fiftieth Anniversary (Jubilee) of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in the city of Washington, D. C., on Sabbath and Monday, the 10th and 11th of January, 1869, and Mr. Cookman was invited to take part. He preached on Sunday morning at Wesley Chapel, spoke at a platform meeting at the Foundry in the evening, and Monday evening delivered one of the addresses at the continuance of the anniversary proper. There had been four or five able addresses in the morning, and three or four equally able had been delivered in the evening before Mr. Cookman was introduced to the audience. For two long days the people had heard of nothing but "missions," and it seemed as though both they and the subject had been exhausted—that there was nothing left for him to say, or, if he found any thing to say, that he would have to say it to a worn-out and retreating audience. With peculiar adroitness in his first sentences he conciliated the congregation, and was heard to the last with unflagging attention.

A correspondent of *The Christian Advocate* wrote: "The address was pervaded with the blessed Spirit of the Master, and at times in rapt delight the audience wept and rejoiced; and when the speaker closed his remarks, all present must have felt that they had been with him at the feet of Jesus receiving instruction and comfort for further effort."

Another correspondent said of it: "His theme was the true missionary spirit. His melting pathos and indescribable sweetness of tone won every heart to the missionary cause. It is impossible to express the power of this address upon the audience gathered on the occasion, and the limits of our paper forbid any attempt to reproduce the words or thoughts presented."

It may not be amiss, as the missionary cause lay near Mr. Cookman's heart, and enlisted—as it had done with his father—his deepest sympathies and strongest efforts, to give extracts

from this address as published in the Annual Report of the Missionary Society.

After introducing himself in his hard-pressed position as a gleaner, he said :

“And now, sir, looking round upon the field, I do not seem to see a standing stalk of truth. These brethren, with their bright blades or their keen sickles, have been gathering the harvest—they have even carried it to the mill. They have ground it out in their close, clear, vigorous thinking ; they have manufactured it into nourishing and delightful food, and it has been dealt out among the people ; you have been enjoying it in the morning and in the evening, and are now entirely satisfied. It seems to me that it only remains to return thanks and go home. Or, sir, if I may change the figure, I have thought during the evening, while occupying my seat, that we have been engaged during the day in the inspection of our great missionary ship, its keel, its timbers, its planking, its deck, its machinery—a most magnificent piece of machinery—its pilotage, and its larder. Our flags are flying, our officers are in their places, and all that we are needing, as it would seem, is the missionary spirit, which might be entitled the motive power.”

After showing that liberal contributions of money might be made in the absence of the real power necessary to success, he continued :

“What is the missionary spirit ? Is it an ordinary interest in, or a kind of general concern for, the heathen abroad and the heathen at home?—a cold and calculating love for those millions that have so long, too long, lingered in the shadow of sin and of death ? Nay, sir, such a spirit as that would never convert the world—has never illustrated itself as the secret spring or motive power of self-sacrificing and successful endeavor in this world. There must be love, it is true, but then let us remember it must be love on fire ; it must be love in a paroxysm ; it must be love intensified, absorbing, all-controlling. Observe, if you please, the missionary quitting his home, kindred, native land, and accustomed comforts. He is willing to abide in the ends of the earth, encompassed by heart-sickening idolatrous superstition and crime. Wherefore ? Is it because of a simple concern respecting the temporal, or even spiritual, welfare of those by whom he may be encompassed ? Nay, I insist it is rather because of the Christ-given and Christ-like love that burns in his heart and literally consumes his life. Oh, sir ! it is the missionary spirit that crosses broad seas, that clambers cloud-

crowned mountains, that traverses far-distant regions, that sails around the world if it may save but a single soul. It is the missionary spirit that breathes miasmas, that bears heavy burdens, that challenges adversaries, that imperils precious life, that laughs at impossibilities, and cries, 'This must, and this shall be done.' It is the missionary spirit that gives and bears sacrifices, and dies, if it were necessary, and if it were possible, a hundred thousand deaths, if, like its divine Exemplar, it might be going about doing good. Now, as I have said, there may be liberality, but there can not be the missionary spirit where there is not a conscientious, Christ-like liberality."

Inquiring, then, how this missionary spirit shall be excited and maintained, he replied—"First, by the careful contemplation of the spiritual necessities of the unregenerate around us." With a few brief touches he illustrated the power of the eye to report to and sensibly affect the heart, and proceeded further to discuss a more vital condition :

"Again, it might be asked, 'Are there not many of our own community who are familiar with temporal and spiritual wretchedness, who are acquainted with the necessities of the heathen world, who hear of this subject not only from year to year, but more frequently, and yet they have none of those exercises or experiences of missionary zeal?' That is true—that is undeniable ; and so we are constrained to the conclusion that something more is indispensable than this simple consideration. What is that something? I answer that it is a union and a living sympathy with the blessed Lord Jesus Christ. And now, sir, at the close of these anniversary exercises, this thought brings me where I joy to come, and where I would like to lead this little company, that is, to Calvary. I throw the arms of my affection around the consecrated cross of Jesus ; I drink in, in constantly increasing measure, his tender, sympathizing, self-sacrificing spirit. Now from this stand-point of the cross—from the measure of that feeling which influences the heart and life of the divine Redeemer—I look out again upon the world ; but now with what different feelings ! Now I hear with Christ's ears, I feel with Christ's heart, I see with His eyes ; now I am ready to labor with Christ's energies ; now I am disposed to give or go, or do or dare, or sacrifice or die—any thing and every thing—if I may but help in lifting our sin-cursed world up to God. This experience of which I am speaking is a vitalizing principle ; it is a divine force. It is Jesus reigning, not (as my brother would say) simply in the skies ; there is something better than that. We can have heaven on the way to heaven. It is Jesus reigning in per-



sonal consciousness in the individual heart ; it is Christ living, breathing, dwelling, and triumphing in personal life. Philosophy is contemplative and studious, fond and full of plans and of theories ; infidelity, as we all know, is given to boasting and to detraction ; both of them laying special stress upon the human rather than upon the divine.

“ But, Mr. President and Christian friends, after all their proud vaunting, pray tell me what heathen shores have they ever visited for purposes of mercy ? What funeral pyre have they ever extinguished ? What dumb idol have they ever cast down from its pedestal ? What nation have they ever lifted up from its barbarism and degradation ? What profligate have they ever reclaimed ? What sorrowful heart have they ever cheered ? Where to-night are their earnest, self-sacrificing missionaries ? Where are their organizations for the amelioration of human suffering and the extension of wholesome and blessed truth in the world ? Where are their Pauls, their Barnabases, their Wesleys, Wilberforces, Thomas Cokes, Asburys, Howards, Phebes, Dorcases, Nightingales, and Elizabeth Frys ? I ask it with confidence and with Christian exultation. In vain I wait for an answer—there cometh none. Sir, we must come to Christ ; we must drink in His Spirit ; for it is there, and there only, we will find the source and the fountain of this missionary spirit, which is so needful and so indispensable. The theory and practice of missions, as I take it, can be expressed almost in a single sentence. It is love to the blessed Lord Jesus Christ, who has bought us with his blood, drawing forth the stream of human sympathy, human affection, and human endeavor—a stream which, by an invariable law of nature and of God, seeks the lowest place—for, let me say to you, that Christian compassion, like Christ’s compassion, always flows downward, and fixes upon those who need it the most. Was it not so with Paul ? The love of Christ constrained him, and he counted not his life dear unto him so that he might but glorify his Saviour, propagate His Gospel, save immortal souls, and finish his course with joy.

“ Mr. President, that great man had been to Calvary. \* \* \* As we heard remarked this morning, with him it was a master passion in death. I lingered in the dungeon, I looked over the shoulder of that great servant of Jesus Christ as he wrote his last epistle that he indicted to a faithful apostle, and I read with the speaker of this morning these words : ‘ I am ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day.’ Here my brother stopped ; but I read on a little farther, ‘ And not for me only.’ There came out his mis-

sionary spirit. That would have been too narrow, circumscribed, and selfish for that great heart. 'Not for me only.' Oh! Paul at that hour took in the hundreds of millions of the world's population—'Not for me only, but for all those that love His appearing.' \* \* \*

"Mr. President, I am not by any means despondent or discouraged; but, on the contrary, I am full of cheerful hope and of Christian confidence. I believe the clouds above will vanish. I believe the right is about to conquer.

"Clear the way!

A brazen wrong is crumbling into clay.

With that right

Shall many more enter, smiling, at the door.

With that wrong

Shall follow many others, great and small,

That for ages long have held us as their prey.

Men of thought and men of action

Clear the way.'

I believe in the future. \* \* \* I believe in the government of the future, and in the Church of the future. I think there is a day not very far distant when from the watch-towers of Asia, once the land of lords many, there shall roll out the exultant chorus, 'One Lord!' when from the watch-towers of Europe, distracted by divisions in the faith, there shall roll up the grateful chorus, 'One faith!' when from the watch-towers of our own America, torn by controversies respecting the initiatory rite into the visible Church of our Lord Jcsus, there shall roll forth the inspiring chorus, 'One baptism!' when from the watch-towers of Africa, as though the God of all the race were not her God—as if the Father of the entire human family were not her Father—when from the watch-towers of neglected and despised Africa there shall roll forth the chorus, 'One God and Father of all!' when the sacramental host, scattered all over the face of this lower creation, shall spring upon their feet, and, seizing the harp of thanksgiving, they shall join in the chorus that shall be responded to by the angels, 'One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all;' 'to whom be glory, dominion, and majesty and blessing forever!'

"Mr. President, these eyes of mine may not see that day of rapture; but if not, then I expect with the great cloud of witnesses to stand yonder upon the glory-illuminated battlements of immortality, and looking down, I will surely enjoy the feast of vision. I may not be associated with those who shall send up from the earth the shout that 'Jcsus reigns;' if not, it seems

to me I will crowd a little closer to the throne with all the glorified company, and I will join with them in singing that the kingdoms of yonder world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. Oh, sir! at the close of this anniversary day, as the result of what I have seen and heard and enjoyed, I resolve to be a better man, and to be a more devoted friend to the missionary cause."

Ah! how little it was thought as the noble, healthful-looking orator took his seat amid shouts and tears, that these concluding references to himself were so painfully prophetic! Three brief years—and yonder he is on the battlements, crying to Christ's hosts still in the conflict, "Forward! and I will be looking down upon you."

By an act of the General Conference of 1868 the Philadelphia Conference had been divided. All that portion of its territory in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia lying between the Delaware and Chesapeake bays, and known as the Peninsula, had been set off to itself, and denominated the Wilmington Conference. The new Conference held its first session in Wilmington. Mr. Cookman remained in the Conference, and was re-appointed to Grace Church for the second year. He thus found himself a leading member in a leading charge of a forming Conference, and, with a loyalty to Methodism exceeded by none, he addressed himself vigorously to the development and conservation of the elements of progress within its bounds.

The National Committee had appointed their annual camp-meeting for July 6th, at Round Lake, near Saratoga, New York. The success of the two previous meetings at Vineland and Manheim, the eligibleness of the location at Round Lake, the increasing attention awakened in the subject of Christian holiness, drew together a vast concourse of people. Representatives were there from well-nigh all the states, the Canadas, and even from England.

"The cosmopolitan character of the meeting is a very marked feature of the occasion, and while the word 'National' is sometimes criticised as meaning too much, yet, in the sense that it is national, it does not express

enough, for here are representatives from many distant parts of the world. Our first introduction on the ground was to Rev. N. Cyr, of Paris, who had been attracted by the catholic design of the meeting, and is here to see and share its blessed fruits. He compares it with the meetings held by the Evangelical Society during the great Exposition in his own city. Here, too, is a publisher from London, D. Morgan, Esq., who has come all the way across the Atlantic to be present at the great American camp-meeting. He is a most enthusiastic admirer of the simplicity of the scene, as also of the vastness of the scale on which the camp is laid out. Another, who is relating a blessed experience in the preachers' love-feast, is a Methodist clergyman from Canada.

"Besides all these, there are our own adopted brethren of every land and clime, some of whom know our common Christian character better than they know our tongue.

"There are nearly one hundred and fifty clergymen from all portions of our great work. The location is most admirably suited to secure the health and comfort of the congregated thousands. The inclosure of forty acres is beautifully situated almost on the margin of the lovely lake from which the place derives its name, and is the most admirably arranged for its purpose of any thing of the sort we have ever seen. The grove is charmingly shady and free from stumps and undergrowth, while the fresh breezes from the lake play with the fragrant odors of the hemlocks which perfume the grove and fill the senses with purest invigoration.

"The Sabbath is over, the great day of the feast! At a quarter to five o'clock A.M. the bell of the tabernacle announced to the camp the hour of early worship, and at once the pavilion was crowded with multitudes, an earnest of the 'day of rest.'

"The love-feast, at eight, was an occasion as only can be enjoyed at such a gathering as this. Four hundred persons in some way or other spoke of their present faith in Jesus, and mostly testified to receiving during this meeting the consciousness of sanctifying grace. The chief feature distinguishing it from ordinary camp-meeting love-feasts was the almost full response given to the request, by the leader of the meeting, that each state of the Union should be represented by at least two persons in their experiences. Commencing with Maine, John Allen, of camp-meeting notoriety, was at once on his feet, declaring that 'this was the one hundred and ninety-ninth camp-meeting that he had attended, and he hoped to attend as many more.' State by state—with only, perhaps, the exception of Louisiana, Texas, and Florida—happy voices, praised God for the common salvation."\*

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\* Correspondence of *The Methodist*, July 17, 1869.

Among the one hundred and fifty ministers, none was more actively engaged in the work than Mr. Cookman. His preaching, speaking, and private conversations were a feature of the meeting.

On returning home from Round Lake, he barely took time to brush from his feet the dust of one field before he was off to another. He attended at least four camp-meetings on the Peninsula—hastening from the Camden Union to Talbot Union, near Easton, Maryland, and thence to Ennall's Springs, and thence homeward to Brandywine Summit. His labors at any one of these meetings would have been enough to exhaust most men, but he went through them all with an unflagging interest. His zeal and strength seemed to know no abatement. Every where his presence excited the utmost enthusiasm, and both preachers and people rallied under his leadership with a unanimity and intentness which rendered his services during this season ever memorable for the marvelous victories achieved for the cross of Christ. The like had not been known in this time-honored region for many years—the old battle-grounds of Asbury, Garrettson, Smith, Laurenson, Cooper, and others of the fathers, resounded with songs of triumph, which carried the “oldest inhabitants living” back to the former days, and made them feel that modern Methodism was still instinct with apostolic fire.

To his wife, at Columbia, Pennsylvania :

“WILMINGTON, July 25, 1869.

“It is half-past ten o'clock, time for retiring, but before I give myself to dreams I will pen a few lines for your pleasure. I am in the parsonage ; have slept here every night since I left you. It is rather desolate ; nevertheless I am retired and more independent than I could be at the homes of the dear friends. I have had a very blessed day. Preached morning and evening to *large* congregations respecting the preciousness of Christ. It was manna for my own soul. Our Sabbath-evening prayer-meeting was very tender and profitable. The Camden camp-meeting is in full blast. President Wilson went down yesterday. I am proposing to leave in the morning, and remain there till Wednesday morning, when I shall return in time

to take the two P.M. train from Philadelphia for Long Branch. Many of the families are absent, but their places are filled with the members of other churches and strangers, so that we have had about our usual congregation. The friends now are all interested in the prospect of the Brandywine camp. Their proposition is to provide a tent for us. They will not hear to any thing else than our presence. We will have to curtail our time a little at Ennall's, and give a week to our own people. I believe this is about all the news I have to communicate. My heart is kept in great peace by the presence and power of the indwelling Spirit. Jesus is unspeakably precious. This is the first letter that I have written you for a long time. I know that I am a poor husband and father—not nearly so attentive or affectionate as I ought to be; nevertheless there are none so dear to me as my little home circle. I want to be a great deal more demonstrative of my real feeling. Pray for me. You know what a good-for-nothing brother I am in my own estimation. The love of my friends and of the blessed Jesus amazes me."

To his wife :

"WILMINGTON, Saturday morning, July 31.

"Excuse the lead-pencil; it is the best I can do at the present moment. During this week I have been so situated that correspondence or letters have been out of the question. President Wilson, however, was a living epistle, who communicated at least that he had seen me, and that I was well. The friends at Camden were very kind, and I had a pleasant time. The meeting did not strike me as any thing special. On Tuesday Bishop Janes preached a really powerful sermon. There were some conversions, but sociability and fashion seemed to rule the hour. On Wednesday I proceeded to Occan Grove, reaching there in the evening about half-past seven. I found a number of tents erected, and Brother H——, of Troy, and wife and daughter; Brother H——, of Albany, and wife and daughter and son; Brother T—— and wife; Brother S—— and wife; Brother O—— and wife; Brother F—— and wife; Hughes, Stockton, Andrews and wife, etc., etc.—a nice company, and a specially nice time boating, bathing, riding, rambling, singing, praying, enjoying clambakes, hard and soft crabs, oysters, and regular sea-side living. Oh, how much and how often we all longed for you to share our enjoyments!

"The place is, of course, rather rough as yet, but it impresses me most favorably. I believe it can be made one of the attractive spots of the continent. An extensive grove—beautiful sites for cottages—a splendid beach, and then two lakes on either side, constituting the northern and southern

boundaries of the property—lakes not deep, but full of fish, crabs, etc., and where the children could swim, boat, etc.

“I left Long Branch, or Ocean Grove, yesterday morning, and arrived at Wilmington again at one o'clock; found and eagerly read your letters, and now propose to start to-day for Easton, Maryland, where the camp-meeting is in progress. They are painfully anxious respecting my presence. Returning the latter part of the week, I do not think that I can be absent from Grace Church next Sabbath; but after the Sabbath will hope on Tuesday or Wednesday to join you in Columbia, and on Friday start for Ennall's Springs. By this arrangement I will scarcely have a Sabbath for Columbia this summer. The friends here are generally well. Now what say you to Williamsport, Pennsylvania? T—— writes me offering the Presidency of Dickinson Seminary, talks about the education of my boys—opportunity for preaching all over, etc., etc., and asks for a decision; but I believe I do not see it as he does. The pastorate, I reckon, is my proper place. We will talk it and other matters over when we meet. But my space is disappearing. Give love and kisses to my dear children. Tell them to be good and gentle and obedient and kind. If practicable, I will write from the Peninsula.”

The Union camp-meeting, held near Easton, Maryland, under the management of Rev. Dr. E. Kenney, was very successful.

“Rev. A. Cookman, of Wilmington, was present nearly the entire time, and his devotion of spirit was participated in by the ministers on the ground. The entire encampment was divided into sections, and the ministers were appointed to daily duty in pastoral visitation to every tent in the section to which they were assigned. Every tent was visited, and the inmates personally talked with on the subject of religion, and prayer was had with all in the tent. At one o'clock each day every tent on the ground was closed for a short season of silent prayer. The voice of prayer could be heard from different parts of the ground during the intervals of public service; and, as a result, this meeting was a great success.

“On the last night of the Easton meeting, over one hundred and fifty penitents knelt at the altar for prayers. At eight o'clock each morning meetings were held for the distinct object of the sanctification of believers, and at nearly every service many presented themselves as subjects of prayer who were seeking heart purity or the forgiveness of sins. There was no discussion on controverted points of theology, but in perfect harmony all labored together to promote Christ's work in the hearts of the people.”\*

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\* Correspondence of *The Methodist*, 1869.

As evidence of Mr. Cookman's power in prayer, an incident which occurred at this meeting is given by the Rev. John Field, of Philadelphia, who was with him at the time: "Captain D—— had presented himself repeatedly at the altar of prayer. One day at the close of the morning service the Captain came out of the woods, where he had been engaged in private prayer, and bowed again at the altar. Brother Cookman noticed him, and immediately called attention to him. 'Now,' said he, 'God has promised to answer the united prayers of two or three, let us put Him to the test.' Turning to Brother A——, he inquired, 'Do you believe this?' Brother A—— answered in the affirmative. He asked Brother B—— the same question, and he also answered in the affirmative. Brother Cookman said, 'I also believe God's Word and His promise.' Amid profound silence the company bowed in prayer. Brother A—— prayed, then Brother B——. Brother Cookman followed. He carried the case of the poor penitent right to the Cross, and just as he closed his earnest prayer,

"Heaven came down our souls to greet,  
While glory crowned the mercy-seat."

God's blessed Spirit witnessed with Captain D.'s that he was born of God. The Captain put his hand into his side-pocket, and, taking therefrom his pocket Bible, said, 'Now I understand it'—the passage still marked and pointing to it. 'I went out alone, bowed beneath the shade of a friendly tree, and opened my Bible; my eye rested on this passage, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." I was to be rewarded openly, and I am, amid this vast assembly—Glory be to the Lamb!' Brother Cookman took the Bible, and wrote in it, 'McNeil's Woods, August, noon, A.D. 1869, the happiest day of my life,' and the Captain signed it.

During the progress of the meeting he preached frequently



and with great power. On one occasion he remained up the whole night, going from tent to tent, instructing penitents, and praying with them."

Nowhere was Mr. Cookman more at home than at Ennall's Springs, Dorchester County, Maryland. He had been accustomed from his early ministry to resort to that beautiful spot, honored of God in the conversion of so many people. This year was the semi-centennial of its appropriation as a place for camp-meetings. The most delightful memories thronged about the place; thousands on earth and thousands in heaven had been brought to God there, and it was proposed to observe the occasion by suitable services. The account of the meeting by a correspondent of *The Methodist* will be read with pleasure by all lovers of the sacred place, and all who prize genuine camp-meetings:

"Rev. Mr. Prettyman, who was present at the first meeting held on the ground, which was under the charge of Father Boehm, was present, and spoke frequently and with thrilling pathos of scenes witnessed on the ground half a century ago. President Wilson, of the Wesleyan Female College; Professor Bowman, of Dickinson College; Professor Fischer, of Philadelphia; Mr. Hurst, of Baltimore; Rev. Alfred Cookman, of Wilmington, were present, and, with Rev. N. M. Brown, preacher in charge, Messrs. Buoy, Watson, Tompkinson, Burke, and others of our own locality, rendered efficient service. This meeting has been specially favored for a number of years with the earnest labors of the sweet-spirited Cookman, who seems, when there, to be as one with his own kindred. Fondly cherished as he is by the people, his services are signally successful. His name is identified with the greatest triumphs of Christ in this locality of late years, and his annual visitation is highly appreciated by the people, and his absence would be greatly felt by them. We may express the hope here that, for the honor and success of Methodism on the Eastern Shore, this meeting may be remembered by our ministerial brethren and friends in the laity in future years. Its influence has been very great in concentrating the feeling and interest of our people in the old Church, and it has contributed, perhaps, as much as any other single influence, toward holding the people together, and keeping them loyal to the Church in the trying times of the last nine years.

"The meeting this year has not fallen behind former occasions. Besides

the ordinary services, special meetings were held each day for ministers, conducted by Rev. A. Cookman; for the children, in which occurred a number of conversions; and for the young ladies on the ground, the latter conducted by Mrs. Cookman, Mrs. President Wilson, and Miss Emily Stevenson.

"The most liberal arrangements were made for the entertainment of the preachers in attendance. The lodging-rooms consisted of a well-arranged frame house attached to the preaching-stand, where every home convenience was found. The honor of this arrangement belongs to Mr. Robert Thompson, who erected the building at his own expense. But these good people are not satisfied with extending a week's hospitality to the preachers that come to assist in the meetings, but they gladly welcome their wives and families as well, and the richest provision is made for their entertainment.

"The Sabbath was kept holy, and, although large crowds assembled to listen to the preaching, there was nothing to complain of on the score of show in dress, or time wasted in promenading, or any disorder. The services were ushered in by a prayer-meeting of interest at five o'clock, followed by an old-fashioned love-feast at eight. The latter was held in front of the stand, and was conducted by Professor Bowman.

"The ground soon became densely thronged, and a score or more of ministers were on the stand, when, at ten o'clock, Rev. A. Cookman arose and announced, as the text for the morning sermon, the words: 'Be filled with the Spirit.' His sermon was listened to with undivided interest and attention."

At Brandywine Summit, a few days later, he was preaching and working with equal power. It was not enough for him to deliver one of the sermons on Sunday, but he must occupy the pulpit the last evening of the meeting. He was found, too, among the children, lifting, by his tender, Christ-like spirit, the little ones to God.

"Rev. A. Cookman on the last night of the meeting preached a searching sermon, calling upon the people to estimate the value of the soul, and what is lost in losing it, and what profit it would be if all else in this life was gained but the soul lost. At midnight, in the greatest solemnity, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to about thirteen hundred persons.

"The children's meetings, held during the progress of the camp, and under the management of Rev. Messrs. Cookman, Clymer, Gracey, and Pancoast, were of more than usual interest. They were not mere occasions of amusement in story-telling and pleasure in singing, but the most searching

appeals were made to the children, and prayer-meeting followed, when scores presented themselves at the altar for prayers, and many were converted. Nothing during the meeting was more impressive than to see these little ones of the household arise and tell of the love of Jesus as they felt it in their hearts. In these meetings, little boys and girls, from ten to fourteen years of age, led in earnest prayer. While a sacred stillness prevailed in the immense tent in which the services were held, the voice of a boy or girl arose in sweetest tones to the throne of heavenly mercy, aged veterans knelt before God with faces bathed in tears, and vast crowds looked on, while a little child should lead them. On the last day, the brethren above mentioned stood in the midst of this exceedingly large and interesting group of children, and, while many tears were shed, shook hands with each, and invoked on each the divine blessing. Mothers came leading their little ones forward to be prayed for by Christian pastors.”\*

In connection with the children’s meeting referred to, a pleasing incident which occurred while Mr. Cookman was at Spring Garden may be appropriately mentioned. A gentleman from the far West, writing immediately after his death, said :

“I attended his ministry at Spring Garden, Philadelphia, during the winter of 1866. I loved him then, but not as I have for the past five years. \* \* \* I shall never forget one incident that occurred at that church—that was when a dear little son of his, of only eight years, presented himself as a candidate for probation. My heart melted then, as hundreds besides, when I saw the strong man bowed like a child, and heard him ask the Church if he should receive that lamb into the fold. I saw the loving father then as never before—also the Spirit of Christ, when he said, ‘Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven.’

“When I saw Brother Cookman years afterward, I asked him if he remembered that incident, and if that little boy had remained faithful. ‘Oh, yes,’ he said; ‘he is about twelve years old now, and is a sanctified boy.’”

While on this subject it will not be amiss to insert an extract from a short speech which fell from his lips on one occasion at a Sunday-school convention :

“The Rev. Alfred Cookman arose, and expressed his confidence in the conversion of children, declaring that he did not believe ‘the way to heaven

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\* Correspondence of *The Methodist*.

lay through the territory of sin,' but that children at an early age might be brought to a saving knowledge of redeeming love; citing as an illustration the case of a boy who was converted at the age of ten, who was a pupil in the Sabbath-school, became a teacher, a librarian, an exhorter, afterward a minister of the Gospel, and who then stood before them, to speak his faith in the power of regenerating grace in the hearts of the young.

"Mr. Cookman of course referred to his own history; and those who are familiar with his love for children, and his rare power to interest them, can not but feel grateful that he was so early called of God, since perhaps to this may be attributed that sympathy which he entertains for them; a sympathy which has encouraged many youthful hearts to beat with holy aspirations for the favor of that Saviour who said, 'Suffer little children to come unto me.'"

After his return from these meetings, Mr. Cookman wrote to the Rev. L. R. Dunn, of the Newark Conference:

"You will be glad to know that the banner of full salvation is flying gloriously in the forests of this time-honored section. The spirit of holiness that made Abbott and Garrettson and our fathers great, is coming back to the churches founded by their hands over all this historic region. The breath of the Divinity is stirring. Hallelujah!"

## CHAPTER XXI.

GRACE CHURCH.—SKILL IN THE PASTORATE.—NATIONAL CAMP-MEETINGS AT HAMILTON, OAKINGTON, AND DESPLAINES.

THE camp-meetings over, the devout pastor was once more quietly seated in the bosom of his family, and again engaged in those regular pastoral duties which to him were more congenial than all besides. It was in vain that he was invited to step aside from his chosen work into an educational institution—whatever might be the advantages of a settled home and school facilities for his children, his mission, to himself at least, was clear. The immediate care of souls was to him unspeakably precious; to feed the flock of Christ, an employment beyond any other which the Church could offer him. The state of his feelings and the state of his parish are reflected in a letter to his friend, Rev. J. S. Inskip, President of the National Camp-meeting Association :

“WILMINGTON, November 5, 1869.

“I thank you for your kind letter. Your debtor in correspondence, I was thinking of discharging the obligation, and thus writing another missive, when, lo ! my large-hearted brother heaps favor on favor. This is like the Divine ; and I know you want to bear the image of the Heavenly.

“Before your last note arrived, I had received from Brother Gray the articles of agreement respecting the Oakington meeting, which I read, signed, and forwarded to the brethren at Havre de Grace. They seemed to cover all the points that had occurred to my mind. Their desire to have the counsel and co-operation of Brother Samuel Hindes is, I think, wise and well. He will prove, I believe, a most valuable helper. I deeply sympathize with all you write respecting the magnitude of our responsibilities, and the great need of power—physical, intellectual, and spiritual—that we may stand in our lot, and quit ourselves successfully as the servants of holi-

ness. My encouragement, however, is that we are moving in the divine order, and that in the path of God's appointment we may confidently hope for His presence and help, which guarantee the right results. We have put our hands in the grasp of the Infinite, saying,

“‘Only Thou our leader be,  
And we still will follow Thee.’”

Where divine wisdom will lead us, or what our Father may have for us to do in the future, remains to be known. When clubs of athletes are crossing oceans and continents for a simple and useless test of physical skill and power, who knows but bands of Christian brothers may be summoned to the shores of the Pacific or the sea-girt isle to fling out the banner of Christian holiness, and offer the sweetest privilege, the richest experience, that God has arranged for our wretched but redeemed race. I am very humble, quiet, trustful, and peaceful in my spiritual state. My hope and help are in the Lord Jehovah that made heaven and earth. He has *never* done otherwise than honor and vindicate my confidence in Him, and I am encouraged to *lean harder* on His truth and power and love.

“Our Wednesday meeting is still well attended, and proves a fountain of blessing. We have Christians of all names, and they place an increasing appreciation on the privilege. God has been pouring out His spirit in some of the churches, especially on old Asbury—the altar is crowded from evening to evening with a most interesting class of penitents. Mercy drops with the prospect of a glorious shower of grace, and is falling on Epworth, the Mission Chapel of Grace. Oh, that Wilmington may be baptized in an unprecedented manner and measure! Mrs. C—— is well, and wishes to be most affectionately remembered to Sister Inskip and yourself. Write soon. I love you tenderly in the blessed Jesus.”

He was invited to Philadelphia to speak at the anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association, held in the Academy of Music, November 30th. In the address which he delivered one can not but be struck with the great theme which seemed more and more to fill his mind, and which he deemed so important to Christian workers as hardly to be omitted without recognition upon all occasions—dependence upon the Holy Ghost.

\* \* \* “The people heard Seneca, excellent man as he was; they heard Seneca and the excellent truths he spoke, and deteriorated in their morals—they got worse and worse. The world has been listening to the teachings

of Jesus—listening during all these centuries ; and, as these gentlemen will bear me witness, the world has been getting better and better in consequence of these truths.

“Mr. President, I know of no satisfactory answer that can be supplied except that our Christianity has the Holy Ghost in it. It has the Word ; it has the truth which gives light ; but it has the Holy Spirit of God that gives life. And what we want is Life ; for the world is dead, terribly dead, in trespasses and sins. In illustration of what I mean : I take it that there is not an individual in any of these galleries or under the sound of my voice, not one but is familiar with that fundamental truth, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and soul and mind and strength.’ We all hold that now ; but how many of this vast audience really do love God ‘with all their heart and soul and mind and strength?’ Perhaps, if appealed to personally or privately, many would say we have not the disposition ; some would confess that they were lacking in the ability. Now, mark, they have the truth ; they have it all their lives long ; but yet they do not love God with all their hearts. What then ? Let these come to God ; let them ask for the ability ; let them ask in the name of Christ and Him crucified ; let them plead with a humble reliance upon God’s strength, His strength ; this is leading men in Christ Jesus. In answer to their prayer the Holy Ghost shall be given, and then they will not only know to love God, as they have during all these years, but they will love God with all their heart. It will not only be a fact in their minds, but it will be an experience in their hearts ; it will be a power, a blessed saving power in their lives.

“This, sir, I feel is just what our associations and churches and communities are now so much needing. We need this divine power, this supernatural power ; it is necessary to accompany and apply the truth to the minds and hearts of those with whom we have to do. \* \* \*

“In trying to do good in the world, the Infinite One fills us, inspires us, emboldens us, ennobles us, saves us, blesses us, makes us strong in nature and in the power of His might. Oh ! does not this quiet, thoughtful, attentive audience see the point I would make ? Entirely consecrated to the service, and then filled with God ! A co-worker with Omnipotence ! I challenge the world to supply a more sublime ideal of character, of experience, of life !”

To Mr. W. W. Cookman, of Philadelphia :

“WILMINGTON, DEL., December 7, 1869.

“We have just received Mary’s note, acquainting us with your indisposition. The first prompting was to cast aside every thing and hasten to your

home. This, however, is a busy day with me, and all the more busy because I have just returned from Baltimore, where I have been rendering some little service. Be assured, dear Will, of our *deepest sympathy* with you in your affliction. We would be submissive to all the divine arrangements, but, indeed, it gives us real pain to think that you are confined to your bed, a subject of suffering. You know we would do any thing in the world to serve or help you—for you are a very precious brother to me. I love you with a deep, true love, that grows stronger day by day. In this trial you will learn a lesson of patient endurance and quiet submission. Our Father, the God of the fatherless, carries you in His arms, and most probably never loved you so much as now; for He has the tenderest sympathy and deepest affection for His suffering children. We will not forget to commend you in earnest and frequent prayer to His providential care and fatherly love. We shall hope to see you on Friday. Keep up your spirits, trust implicitly in God, and all will be well. Love for Mary, kisses for the children."

To Mr. W. W. Cookman :

"WILMINGTON, December 30, 1869.

"It was very neglectful in me to allow so many days to elapse before acknowledging your brotherly generosity—but for a week now we have been a very excited family. The Sabbath with its duties followed Christmas very closely. This over, the next thing was a golden wedding at Mr. Gause's, in which, as the pastor of the family, I was expected to take a part. We received first the barrel of flour, and afterward the children's presents, for all of which we were deeply and tenderly thankful. May our Heavenly Father reward you a thousand-fold for your considerate and most acceptable kindness. The Christmas season has been full of joy in our domestic life. The return of our children, their generally good health, their gratification with their presents, their jubilant spirits, all have conspired to make it an unusually happy time. I have fared better than for many years. A couple of gentlemen presented me with a suit of clothes, our young men with an overcoat, the ladies with a nice cashmere wrapper, and another gentleman with a new hat. All these articles were just what I really needed, and, of course, were most acceptable. 'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.' We think a great deal about you during your affliction, and every day very carefully commend you to God in earnest prayer. We trust that the means used may be specially and speedily blessed, so that you may be able to take your place again in life's busy arena. Meanwhile get out of this dispensation all the spiritual wealth that may be extracted from it; remembering that, after all, the spiritual is as much better than the material as the



soul is of more consequence than its frail, fleshly home. God bless you and yours."

The Christmas festival was a delight to Mr. Cookman, and was always appropriately observed by suitable religious and social exercises. His house, with its interchange of gifts and salutations, was a scene of cheerful gayety. With his own children and the children of the Sunday-school he mingled freely, reminding them by his innocent mirthfulness that the religion which Jesus was born to establish is fitted to make every body happy. The enthusiastic and tasteful celebrations of the season on its annual returns while he was at Grace Church were among the pleasantest occurrences of his pastorate, and can not be soon blotted from the memories of his young parishioners.

In March, 1870, Mr. Cookman was re-appointed for the third year to Grace Church.

His delicate tact and tender thoughtfulness as a pastor were happily illustrated quite early in the year in connection with the last illness of one of the devout ladies of his Church, Mrs. Bates, the wife of Chancellor Bates. Mr. Bates's note, accompanying the letters written by Mr. Cookman to Mrs. Bates, afford the best explanation of the case, and also offer a very just tribute to the worth of the faithful pastor.

D. M. Bates, Esq., of Wilmington, Delaware, to the Rev. J. E. Cookman :

"The letter, of which the inclosed is a copy, was written by Mr. Cookman to Mrs. Bates during her last illness, at a period when a failure of voice precluded her from conversation with friends—hence the occasion for his giving her pastoral advice and sympathy *by letter*. It was most gratefully appreciated by her, and often read with expressions of great pleasure, and with much consolation and help under her feebleness. She held him in affectionate confidence and regard, and cordially received and rested upon his counsels—and this letter, together with a subsequent one written from New England, of which also a copy is inclosed with this, did much toward inspiring her with a more cheerful and resigned spirit under her declining strength. It is a beautiful outflow of pastoral affection, breathing the very spirit of Christ

himself, and containing sentiments worthy to be written in letters of gold. It is a memorial of both the departed far more precious than rubies."

To Mrs. D. M. Bates, of Wilmington :

\* "WILMINGTON, May 31, 1870.

"You must not think that we have forgotten you in your affliction. A hundred times you have been in our thoughts, and very frequently, if it had been deemed practicable or best, we would have offered you in person the sympathy of a pastor's heart. It has occurred to me that a message of love through this medium might not be unwelcome, and hence I take a moment to communicate that there are some hearts outside of your happy home that are concerned for your welfare, and that do not fail or forget to present you in your feebleness to that Father who does not willingly afflict any of his dear children. The dispensation that withdraws you from the active duties of domestic life is profoundly mysterious. We will not presumptuously venture an explanation of this providence. At the same time, you will be comforted by the remembrance that our Father, if inscrutable, is *never wrong*. Clouds frequently cover His ways, but there is light on the other side of the cloud—light to reveal the fact of mystery—light with which we may meet the obligations and trials of the passing hour. We must 'trust where we can not trace,' and remember that while living the life of faith we are moving as safely as though we understood every thing. 'He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.'

"May I affectionately counsel that, with an implicit and steady reliance upon Jesus for the help of the Almighty Spirit, you accept all the will of God moment by moment—aye, *take that will into your heart, and love it* better than all beside ; for the difference between the unsaved and the fully saved is that while the former find the will of God *without* them, and are obliged to submit to what they can not change, the latter find that same will *within* them, and very cheerfully submit to what they would not change.

"Let this season of affliction be an epochal time in your earthly history—constituted such not only by a fuller, but by the *fullest* submission of yourself and family and all to the infinitely excellent will of your Father in Heaven. You may safely trust that will, for it is never arbitrary, never wrong. It is always the expression of divine wisdom and love.

"As you sometimes indulge in prospective vision, say that all the rest of your life shall be, in the fullest and strictest sense, a *consecrated* life—a life hid with Christ in God—a life blessed in its experiences and in its results, concerning itself principally for the spiritual welfare of those around you,

and linking itself with the glory and triumph of the eternal future. Take this opportunity that the providence of God gives to write on all you have and are and hope for, 'Sacred to Jesus,' and spend the rest of your life in steadily '*Looking only unto Jesus.*' These two sentences may be profitable mottoes for every useful and glorious life.

"Excuse the liberty I thus take in writing to you. My note may be a word in season. In any case, it will furnish assurance that you are remembered with sympathy and love and prayer by your tenderly attached pastor."

To Mrs. D. M. Bates :

"HAMILTON CAMP-GROUND, MASSACHUSETTS, June 29, 1870.

"You will be surprised perhaps to receive this letter, but it will at least indicate that, although far away, still you are remembered by your affectionate pastor ; and not only have you a place in my thoughts, but also in my prayers. Many times in this consecrated forest I have been reminded of you in your feebleness, and lifted up my soul to God that He would be with you and bless you, and make your sickness a signal and glorious passage in your earthly history. We are having really a most wonderful time at our Hamilton camp-meeting, the first service of the kind I have ever attended in New England. The attendance is from all the surrounding states, and the interest and divine power exceed, I think, any thing I have ever witnessed. Hundreds of ministers and people are concerned to enjoy their full privilege in the Gospel. The community in this section is generally more intellectual and less demonstrative than that in the Middle and Southern States. They can and do meet mind with mind, but that still leaves the heart untouched. They want Holy Ghost power, and, asking, God is gloriously giving it to them. Unless I am greatly mistaken, the effects of this extraordinary meeting will be far-reaching and most blessed. Oh ! my dear sister, I do so much wish that your kind heart and whole being shall be entirely filled with God, submitting to His will in every particular, and tasting the joy of perfect love. Let us be altogether and eternally the Lord's.

"I thought that a breath of love from New England might bring a moment's refreshment to you in your sick-room. Give my tenderest love to the Judge, and to your sons and daughters."

Mr. Cookman's judgment in dealing with the sick was proved not alone in the feminine gentleness with which he could anticipate the needs of the cultured pious lady, but also in the force and skill with which he would approach the hardened and impenitent man. When he was stationed at Trinity, New York,

a gentleman called upon him and requested him to visit a son, who was ill. The young man had been very wayward, was still obdurate, and refused all religious counsel and prayer. Mr. Cookman went, but the young man declined conversation—wished to have nothing to do with him; but instead of insisting, he immediately withdrew, with the quiet, loving remark, “Well, my friend, you may refuse to let me talk and pray with you, but you can not prevent my praying *for* you.” This kind word had its desired effect. He called again very soon to inquire for the invalid, and, to the surprise of all, was welcomed by him and invited to pray. The visits were repeated until the young man professed to be converted, and died confessing his faith in Christ.

From the last letter it will be seen that Mr. Cookman had already, thus early in the summer, entered upon his yearly camp-meeting tour.

The National Association had determined upon three camp-meetings for the year 1870—the first at Hamilton, Massachusetts, June 21st; the second at Oakington, Maryland, June 12th; and the third at Desplaines, Illinois, August 9th—all of which Mr. Cookman attended, preaching at them all, and laboring with the untiring zeal which had heretofore characterized him.

His impressions at the Hamilton meeting have been already partially presented. At the meeting alluded to in this letter he is reported to have said, “How I joy in that divine declaration, ‘Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.’ This has been the very best Sabbath-day of all my earthly Sabbaths. An isolation from the world in the sense of non-conformity is the secret of spiritual power. I am able and I am willing to be a witness—and if alone, I would hold up this banner.” The Sunday-evening service was assigned to him, but, instead of preaching, he narrated his experience.

I give a letter from this place to his wife :

“HAMILTON CAMP-GROUND, Monday.

“On Saturday I dropped you a few lines, acquainting you with my uninterrupted journey to and safe arrival at this place. When I wrote the weather was insufferably warm ; I scarcely ever experienced any thing equal to it. The same night, however, it stormed, the wind veering around to the east, and giving us a rainy Sabbath. The services, consequently, were held in our new tabernacle. It was a wonderful Sabbath, certainly the best of any we have spent in the woods as a National Committee. Brother Wells preached in the morning on consecration, Brother Boole in the afternoon on the spiritual life of the Church ; in the evening I had charge of the services, not preaching, but exhorting and directing the prayer-meeting. The friends are expecting a sermon from me to-morrow. From the love-feast in the morning until the closing service at night, it was extraordinary. This meeting, in its interest and power, is a great success. The brethren feel that in its impressiveness and holy influence it is equal to or ahead of Round Lake. There are very few from the large cities of Philadelphia, New York, or Boston. A large proportion of the people seem to be from Maine. Scores and hundreds are coming into the liberty of full salvation. Mrs. Wright is here, concerned to do her part. I am so interrupted in writing that it is difficult to proceed—tent full of brethren. I hold you constantly before God.”

The camp-meeting at Oakington, July 12th, near Havre de Grace, Maryland, was very numerously attended. At one of the earlier prayer-meetings Mr. Cookman, addressing the friends, spoke in substance as follows :

“We desire for your own sake, for the sake of your comfort, usefulness, but especially for Jesus' sake—we desire for you a rich, round, full, abiding, blessed religious experience and life. Oh, how gladly and thankfully we would help you this morning if we could ! But we are reminded that there is a better Leader, a better Teacher, even the Holy Ghost. He guides into all truth. He takes of the things of Christ, the truth of Christ, the power of Christ, the blood of Christ, the grace of Christ, and shows them unto us. Let us put ourselves under His divine tuition. Blessed Spirit, Third Person of the adorable Trinity, proceeding from the Father and the Son, we acknowledge Thee, we worship Thee, we praise Thee, we love Thee, we seek fellowship with Thee, we want to be filled this day, and every day, and constantly, with all this fullness. Oh, hear our prayer in this morning

service ! Come and direct our thoughts ; come and quicken our desires ; come and help our faith ; come and enable us in all the services this day to sing—

“ ‘ Come, Holy Ghost, for Thee we call ;  
Spirit of power and blessing, come. ’ ”

The correspondent of *The Methodist*,\* writing from Oakington, evidently in the counsels of the National Committee, vindicates their course in declining to invite ministers to preach who differed with them on the doctrine of entire sanctification. There is scarcely one point in the conduct of the committee which had up to this time subjected them to so much criticism. With the explanation given, their decision in the matter seems sufficiently reasonable ; especially as it was not meant to exclude ministers from preaching at their camp-meetings upon grounds of merely technical, but of radical, differences of opinion on the subject of holiness :

“ The sermons were all of interest, and all bearing upon the one theme to be kept prominently in view during this meeting. The rule adopted by the committee in former meetings was duly observed here—namely, to call to the stand to preach only such ministers as are clear in their views and experience of the grace of Christian perfection ; they feel more than ever the responsibility of abiding by this rule, since, as was stated in *The Northern Christian Advocate*, they are singly and severely responsible to the world and the Church that nothing that is presented at these meetings shall be anti-Scriptural or anti-Methodistical. With this responsibility upon them, they do well to retain entire supervision of every meeting held upon the ground. With this watchful supervision, there is no danger to be apprehended that any new doctrine will be introduced or any schism occur. Nothing here presented will have any tendency to divide the Church. The key-note is harmony, love, and union. They set up no tests, but ask only for purity of heart, and a confession of the saving power of the blood of Jesus. There is no radicalism but the radicalism of love ; and no visions or new revelations or prophecies ; but earnest, heart-searching, sin-subduing, soul-invigorating power. These men fight with the old guns of Methodism, and seek only the baptism of the Holy Ghost and of fire.”

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\* July 30, 1870.

So general was the attendance at this meeting, that,

“When the roll of the states was called, representatives answered from all the states and territories but three. An Indian from Northern Michigan, and ministers recently from India, China, Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, and our territories in the far West, testified of the triumphs of religion in their localities.”

To accommodate the numerous friends of the national movement in the West, a camp-meeting was also held at Desplaines, Illinois, near Chicago, on the 9th of August. A correspondent writing of it, said :

“Sunday was a great day. The prayer-meeting at five o'clock—largely attended—was led by Rev. A. Cookman. At eight the love-feast was held ; Rev. L. R. Dunn presided. Nearly three hundred gave in their testimonies. The people represented not only the Eastern, Western, Middle, and Southern States of our own country, but England, Ireland, Germany, Wales, Russia, Africa, Canada, Sweden, and the Argentine Republic. Many of these testimonies, though brief, were truly thrilling, both in word and spirit. As an example : A colored man from Canada said, ‘Forty years ago my soul was set at liberty, even before my body was emancipated.’”

Amid all the duties and excitements of the meeting, Mr. Cookman found time for correspondence.

To his wife :

“DESPLAINES CAMP-GROUND, Saturday morning, }  
Summer of 1870. }

“It is really very difficult to find time for correspondence even with my precious Annie. Meetings begin at five A.M. and continue until bed-time. These, with meals and conversation, occupy almost every moment. Your kind letter came to hand yesterday. It was most refreshing to hear from home. God be praised for His goodness to my loved ones. Yesterday the morning sermon fell to my lot. We had a cool hour, a large congregation, and our kind Heavenly Father allowed me a most comfortable time. I might write many kind things that were said of the discourse, but this you know is not my taste or style. Just at the close of my sermon I invited brethren of the ministry and laity to gather in the altar. Brother Matlack, of New Orleans, preached in the afternoon a very tender sermon—Brother Welling in the evening, and Brother McDonald this morning. The meeting is wonderful—wonderful—wonderful.

"Such unanimity, earnestness, and divine power have scarcely been paralleled at any of our previous meetings. Yesterday was one of the best days I ever spent in a consecrated forest. An influence seemed to pervade the encampment that got hold of every body—the best men both of the ministry and laity. Last night it was very cold, cold enough for October; during the night it began to rain, and to-day the rain continues, driving us all to the tabernacle. We are most pleasantly situated in our forest cottage, and our boarding arrangements are most excellent—first-rate table and most attentive waiters. God is very good to me. He fills my soul and graciously helps me in my humble efforts to do His holy will. To-morrow, Sabbath, Brother Inskip preaches in the morning and Brother Boole in the afternoon. General meeting for night. God bless you, Annie, and my dear children. Love to the boys and all friends."

To his wife :

"DESPLAINES, August 15, 1870.

"I have the opportunity of sending a letter direct to Philadelphia by the hand of Brother Wallace. My last, I believe, was written on Saturday evening. That was a damp, cold day. All the services were in the tabernacle. Sabbath opened with a cool atmosphere but a cloudless sky. It devolved upon me to lead the five o'clock prayer-meeting in the morning. It was blessed indeed. At eight we had the love-feast, one of my very best. At half-past ten Brother Inskip preached well—unusually well. At half-past two P.M. Dr. Reed, editor of *The Northwestern Christian Advocate*, preached. At the close of the sermon believers were rallied, and a general charge made on the unconverted. The altar was crowded with penitents, and some thirty-five were converted in less than an hour. In the evening, as usual, Brother Alfred had to head the column. God helped me as much, perhaps, as ever in my life, and I trust great good was done. The whole ground seemed to be a great altar, sinners and unbelievers both down before God. We all think it was the best Sabbath of any of our National camp-meetings. Glory to the Lamb! The weather is very cool. My shawl is a decided necessity. I begin to realize a sense of great weakness, and will have to be careful lest I contract the chills and fever. Willing to work, and obliged to remain till the last moment, still I will be glad to turn my face homeward, and sit down again amid the quiet comforts of No. 813 West Street.

"To-day there seems to be a little reaction from yesterday—nevertheless, the meetings have been very profitable. To-night God is present in great power. The great West answers to the East, and shouts, Holiness to the Lord. But I must close. The people are very kind—some of them think



they must have me in the Northwest. Give my love to the dear boys—let this take the form of a sweet kiss from their dear mamma. The baby boy, of course, will not be forgotten. I received to-day your second letter. It was a hundred thousand times welcome. Take good care of yourself."

To Mrs. Bishop Hamline :

"DESPLAINES, August 19, 1870.

"We have been wonderfully favored at Desplaines—the weather, the congregations, the presence of a large number of ministers, the sustained and increasing interest, the loving spirit of the people, and especially the presence and power of the Divinity—all, all call for songs of loudest praise. Your prayers have been signally answered. This is beyond all question the best of our series of National camp-meetings. Your friends, of course, will supply all the details. My own soul has been wonderfully strengthened and helped.

"God bless you abundantly, my precious sister. I have written this in the midst of camp-meeting duties and excitements. It is not a thousandth part of what is in my heart to say. Pray for me, and believe me your devotedly attached son in the Gospel."

Some estimate of Mr. Cookman's ministrations at this meeting may be formed from one or two facts communicated by John Emory Voak, M.D., of Bloomington, Ill., who was present at the time :

"While attending the meeting, having known Brother Cookman, I took particular pains to attend all his ministrations and every meeting that he led, and oh, how my soul fed and feasted on the bread of life as dispensed by him !

"I never shall forget his sermon on the theme, 'Entire sanctification.' Surely the Holy Spirit spoke through him to many hearts, and won them to Christ as a Saviour to the uttermost.

"I wish I could describe one of the most glorious meetings I ever attended, led by him. After answering the objection often urged against laboring for the promotion of holiness (instead of the conversion of sinners) most beautifully, he gave a sketch of his experience. He said that 'on these hands, these feet, these lips I have written, *Sacred to Jesus.*' After his enlarging on that beautiful motto, I am sure many in that meeting of preachers saw entire sanctification as a more comprehensive and sacred work than they had been wont to view it, and that they were then set apart as never before.

"One other incident which can not be described occurred at the last service of that meeting. The time had come when we must part ; all Christian hearts were solemn—some were sad—at the thought of leaving that hallowed ground. The leader felt he could not close without giving one more opportunity for sinners to come to Jesus, and for Christians to plunge anew into the fountain. To the surprise of perhaps every one, nearly two hundred arose for prayers. That scene seemed to inspire Brother Cookman, and he offered a prayer such as I never expect to hear equalled. The Holy Ghost made intercession in his soul with groanings that could not be uttered. He was in audience with Deity—aye, more, he had hold on God, and it literally raised him from his knees. I never heard such a fervent, effectual prayer, and it prevailed, as many will testify in the day of judgment."

This communication, together with Mr. Cookman's own account of the meeting, affords ample evidence that he never sought the entire sanctification of believers to the neglect of "calling sinners to repentance."

Besides attending the National camp-meetings, Mr. Cookman was present at the usual number of local camp-meetings through the summer, and performed at every one the same almost superhuman work. He could allow himself no respite, but flew like a herald of light from place to place. Ennall's Springs, Talbot County, Brandywine Summit, Camden Union, Ocean Grove, and possibly others, shared his ministrations.

He wrote from Ennall's Springs to Mrs. Cookman :

"ENNALL'S, Monday, 1870.

"Sabbath is over ; it was a bright, beautiful, blessed day—the atmosphere cool, pure, invigorating. We had good congregations. I preached both morning and evening, superintended the love-feast and two prayer-meetings, and at half-past ten went to bed pretty well worn out. This is vacation ! Our services have all been very profitable, the prayer-meeting last night and this morning especially. There are a good many hungry souls here, and I have great joy in inviting and leading them to the blessed provisions of the Gospel. There are many tender, loving inquiries respecting your welfare. You would have met a most affectionate welcome at the hands of these Dorchester County people. Annie T—— is rather sad, occasioned by the change in her circumstances and the absence of her dear husband.

Their tent, however, is just as attractive in its social circles and its bountifully spread table as ever.

"This afternoon we leave for Easton. Willie\* seems to be very happy. The tables suit him. He has a wonderful weakness for the feathered creation—wings, legs, breast, and side-bones quickly disappear before his vigorous assaults. Thus far he behaves himself beautifully—keeps his clothes clean, and acts like a little gentleman. I feel proud of him. My own soul is strong in the Lord. I feel that in leading up the Church I am doing God's will, and am wonderfully blessed. The blessed Spirit shines upon my mind and seems to give efficiency to my feeble words. Pray for me. I do not forget you. Your unwavering love has not failed to make the deepest impression on my heart. May God have you ever in His special care and keeping."

To his wife :

“MCNEILL'S WOODS.

"On another battle-field! Arrived here last night about eight o'clock, after a four hours' ride from Ennall's. Will enjoyed the journey, especially the *driving*. This is a delightful spot—a larger meeting decidedly than the one in Dorchester. Our reception was most enthusiastic. This morning I led the eight o'clock meeting. It was really one of the most precious and powerful services that I ever enjoyed. Brother Quigg, the presiding elder, preached this morning, and Brother John Field this afternoon. The meetings are increasing in interest, and presage victory. President Wilson and wife are here—arrived last evening. Will finds pleasant companions, and receives a great deal of attention. The friends here insist upon my staying until Friday morning. They think that the interests of souls and the Church are involved. I shall be better able to judge to-morrow."

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\* The fourth son, William Wilberforce.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### GRACE CHURCH.—THE PENINSULA CONVENTION.

THE Wilmington Conference, at its last session (1870), had adopted the following resolution :

*“Resolved,\** That a committee of eight—four ministers and four laymen—be appointed by this Conference to arrange for a Peninsula Methodist Convention, to consider and promote our denominational interests, said Convention to be held at such time and place as the committee may deem advisable.”

Mr. Cookman was appointed chairman of this committee. Indeed, “the conception of the Convention,” in the language of one, “was his. He was the presiding genius as well as the moving spirit.” At the call of the committee the Convention assembled at Smyrna, Delaware, on November 15, 1870, and continued for three days. “It was composed of the resident Bishop, Levi Scott, D.D., the superannuated, supernumerary, and traveling preachers of the Wilmington Annual Conference, with two lay delegates from each circuit and station within the limits of said Conference.” Its object was “to consolidate, instruct, and inspire one Methodism on the Peninsula.” Mr. Cookman called the Convention to order, and the Hon. D. M. Bates, Chancellor of the State, was elected president, with eight vice-presidents.

The topics discussed were : The Methodist Episcopal Church—its active and relative growth, and its present position on the Peninsula ; Education—its claims upon the Church ; Working

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\* Proceedings of the Peninsula Convention of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held at Smyrna, Delaware, November 15, 1870. S. W. Thomas, 1018 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Forces of the Church—local ministry, women's work, young people's associations, etc. ; Relation of the Church to the Moral Questions of the Day—Bible, Christian Sabbath, and Temperance cause ; Family Religion ; The Sabbath-school ; and The Spiritual Life of the Church. These themes were severally treated in one or more written papers and by open discussion. The first topic elicited many valuable facts concerning the past and present status of Methodism in one of its chosen fields.

The Rev. George A. Phoebus, in speaking of the Fallen Heroes of Peninsula Methodism, said, in regard to its early origin :

"Whitefield, with a reputation in the New World that gathered thousands around him wherever and whenever he preached, we have every reason to believe, as early as 1756, perhaps earlier, had disseminated the doctrines of the Oxford 'Holy Club' among the inhabitants of Bohemia Manor, and had sowed the seeds of the Gospel Kingdom in the hearts of the Bayards, and Bowchells, or perhaps Voschells. Here Wright, in 1771, found 'in a certain house a room where he slept, prayed, and studied, that is still called Whitefield's room.'

"When we look, therefore, upon the class that encouraged the early Wesleyan Methodist itinerant as he went forth in the work of his Master, we must feel that it is due to the memory of the eloquent, fiery, commanding Whitefield, as the first hero that gathered a Methodist band on the Peninsula, to lay at his feet the honor of having first enkindled in the hearts of our fathers the fires of that religious revolution that was awakening the fatherland to true Christianity. He was to us 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'

"The interest awakened by Whitefield did not die out before the appearance of the Wesleyan missionary. The first Wesleyan Evangelists not only found the field white unto the harvest, but men and women ready to be employed. The long interval that elapsed often between the appointments of the preachers, the range of their work, the transitory stay that they made in any place, were not calculated to give permanence to their instructions unless there were found some like those already mentioned who could lead the newly converted in the way of life. The incidents in proof of this are rare but valuable. In addition to those furnished, we give the following from the life of Benjamin Abbott. In 1780 he was at his appointment at J. Hersey's. After the sermon, a dear old lady said to him, 'This is the Gospel trump ; I heard it sounded by Mr. Whitefield twenty-five years ago.' We have also, in the

recollection of Rev. Joseph Everett, of Queen Anne County, Maryland, a glimpse of the activity of the followers of Mr. Whitefield. As early as 1763, under the instructions of the school of Whitefield, he was convinced of sin, had joined their society, and in his chamber, on his knees, sought and obtained redemption in the blood of Christ, even the forgiveness of sins. Thus we see that in 1770, when the Gospel of the Kingdom was presented to the people by Mr. Wesley's preachers, there were to be found some who had knowledge of the way of salvation by faith. Thus it appears that while in England the controversy was raging between the Calvinistic and Arminian Methodists, the converts of Whitefield on this Peninsula were rising up to bear witness to the truth of the Wesleyan teachers on the fundamental doctrines of justification by faith, the witness of the Spirit, and the sanctification of believers."

Mr. Phoebus, after showing how Wesleyan Methodism was kindled from these sparks by Webb, Strawbridge, King, and others, referred to its organization by Asbury:

"Here he (Asbury) met Dr. Coke in 1784, bearing the instructions of Wesley for organizing the societies into a systematic whole—here was assembled around him, eighty-six years ago to-day (November 14), within twenty-five miles of the place where the first Peninsula Convention of the Methodist Episcopal Church is holding its session, the preachers who in informal Convention gave birth to the Methodist Episcopal Church in these United States of America. Here, at Barratt's Chapel, at the same time, the Methodists in this country first partook of the Holy Sacrament, the ordinance being administered by their own regularly ordained preachers. Brethren, it was not the Peninsula, not time-honored Barratt's Chapel, not the preachers assembled in quarterly meeting, not Dr. Coke, vested with Episcopal authority, but that dear man of God, Francis Asbury, whose glory has streamed forth from the radiance of that hour, and mantles us, his spiritual descendants."

The Rev. J. B. Quigg presented statistical tables showing the gradual increase of the Methodist Episcopal Church through successive decades, from 1 charge, 1 preacher, and 150 members in 1774, to 89 charges, 114 preachers, and 24,734 members in 1870. Adding to the number of white members the number of colored members, for some time counted apart, the whole number of members in 1870 was 34,530, which gave to the

Methodist Episcopal Church a ratio of 1 to every 8.6 of the total population (300,000) of the entire Peninsula.

This Peninsula Mr. Asbury was accustomed to call his garden for Methodist preachers. It still retains much of its original Methodist simplicity. To no one in the Convention was this statistical exhibit more gratifying than to Mr. Cookman. On no field outside of his immediate parish work had he spent so much energy as on this ; and as he contemplated the status of the Church, its numerical, social, financial capabilities, his mind was impressed with a sense of the great importance of a rebaptism of all these forces by the Holy Spirit, for the "consolidation, instruction, and inspiration of Peninsula Methodism."

It was therefore just to his taste that "The Spiritual Life of the Church" was assigned as his theme. I give the essay which he read entire, as containing some of his best thoughts on the relation of holiness to the Church :

#### "THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

"The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure Word of God is preached and the sacraments duly administered.

"It stands above all other organizations ; the repository of the most valuable truth ; a fountain of light and life and love, a blessing to the world.

"*The spiritual life of this Church*, that is, the life of God developing in the experience of its individual members, is its highest and best life—aye, and because of the important relations and the exalted position of the Church, it is the best life of the world ; the highest to which the race at large can possibly aspire. It links itself intimately and indissolubly with personal character, social order, family comfort, national prosperity, and our world's complete redemption.

"Now, will it not occur to any observant mind that this spiritual life, like our natural life, may exist in various stages of development ?

"In a hospital, for illustration, may we not find a patient paralyzed, unable to do any thing, and yet life flickering in its socket ? May we not find other invalids, feeble, complaining, scarcely able to stand up, not willing to communicate, knowing little of the joys of life, and yet not actually dying ? It may be they have brought this upon themselves as the consequence

of their own folly or neglect. There has been some temptation, comparatively harmless to others, but injurious to them, and they have balanced the gratification it has afforded them against the fearful results that have developed, and so they have carnally and culpably clung to the doubtful indulgence until the effect is as we see. Ah, brethren, do we not know by observation, and some of us by experience, that this is a sad picture of too many who profess to be the subjects of spiritual life? Through neglect or failure or folly, or doubtful indulgence or partial obedience, their religious life is feeble and sickly—some trust, but more of distressing doubt; some hope, but more of torturing fear; some joy, but more of spiritual joylessness; little appetite for divine things; little disposition to exercise themselves in matters pertaining to godliness; little interest in those means and measures that are intimately related to the salvation of the race and the glory of God.

“Oh, how different from that spiritual life that hungers and thirsts after righteousness; that runs in the way of obedience; that works, and rejoices to work, in the vineyard; that fights, aye, and endures hardness in the great battle with sin and Satan. ‘I am come,’ said Christ, ‘that they might have life, and that they *might have it more abundantly.*’

“Brethren, ought it not to be with us a matter of congratulation and thanksgiving that the home of our spiritual nature is in a Church that has always given so much attention to the development of the spiritual life? For, observe, while some of the other denominations have arrayed themselves around their citadels of doctrine, waging occasionally an offensive, but more frequently a defensive warfare, Methodism, adventuring into the field of the wide, wide world, has employed her time and talents and energies in the culture and dissemination of spiritual life. Meanwhile her fundamental doctrines have remained intact and unchanged, proving that orthodoxy is much better conserved by the cultivation of the spiritual life, than the spiritual life is promoted by an elaborate defense of orthodoxy. But, more than this, gaining constant accessions of this best life, growing stronger with the strength that the Divinity supplieth, our success, as a Christian denomination, has been almost without parallel or precedent. From a small class organized in the city of New York, with Philip Embury as the leader, the Methodist societies have grown until within their folds they enroll, upon this continent, more than two millions of members, and directly influence some seven or eight millions of our American population. \* \* \*

“Nearly a century since, Thomas Coke, Francis Asbury, Benjamin Abbott, William Watters, Freeborn Garrettson, and others, whose names are as ointment poured forth, heralds of grace, filled with apostolic love and



zeal and power, visited our Peninsula, unfurling the blood-stained banner, and preaching a salvation, free, full, present, conscious, and glorious. Their word was in demonstration of the Spirit—opposition gave way—prejudice vanished—hearts were opened—spiritual life was accepted—and now for about a hundred years Methodism has had a home upon this Peninsula, much of the time the dominant religious denomination of the region.

“As we overlook the field to-day, can we not find occasion for encouragement and rejoicing in the fact that the spiritual life of Methodism all through this section retains very much of its original simplicity? We still hold fast and hold up the old distinctive doctrines of salvation for all through the mediation of Christ—justification by faith a personal necessity and a present privilege—the distinct and direct witness of the Holy Spirit with our spirit that we are children of God—entire sanctification, through the blood of Christ and by the power of the Holy Ghost, made available by an exercise of present trust in Jesus. We still retain, appreciate, and enjoy the class-meeting, the love-feast, the watch-night service, the quarterly-meeting, the camp-meeting, the protracted-meeting—means of grace that were originally the gift of God’s providence, and which our fathers found to be so valuable and profitable. While in some other sections there is a disposition to lay aside or treat carelessly some of the old weapons, conforming to the spirit of an extravagant age and a fashionable world, Methodism on the Peninsula still satisfies herself with plain, free-seated churches; still experiences and shouts the joy of God’s salvation; still goes in for earnestness of expression and of operations; still agrees that the people of God while ‘*in, must not be of the world,*’ but must stand separate from and exalted above the world’s littleness and vanities and falsities; still clings to and would battle in defense of the old and well-tried landmarks.

“But now, while we offer the language of congratulation and commendation, let us, still continuing our observation, ask, Is the spiritual life of our Church, within the limits of the Wilmington Conference, up to the New Testament standard? Let us ‘examine ourselves.’ Instead of offering God a *perfect love*, do we not yield Him a partial affection, allowing other objects to dispute in our hearts the sovereignty of His most holy and excellent will? Instead of *brotherly kindness*, is there not in our intercourse with fellow-Christians too frequently uncharitableness, backbiting, and even bitterness of spirit? Instead of self-denial and cross-bearing, conditions of Christian discipleship, is there not an acknowledged avoidance of the cross, and an inveterate disposition to self-pleasing? Instead of a *liberal spirit* and *systematic beneficence*, is there not an absence of settled principle that sometimes expresses itself in the language, ‘I will give little or nothing, just as I

please?" Instead of *simplicity* in our attire and in our styles of living, so that we may have more to give to Christ's blessed work, is there not an aping of the world's fashions and follies, a conformity that we know is prejudicial to a deep and growing spirituality? Instead of *words seasoned with grace* and tending to edification, are not too many of our words idle, gossipy, unkind, and unprofitable? Instead of a *burning and abiding zeal* prompting to steady aggressions upon the kingdom of sin and hell, are we not fitful in our efforts, soon wearying in well-doing?

"These pointed inquiries suggest some of the delinquencies and shortcomings of too many of our Church members, and constrain the conclusion that there is a *higher spiritual life* for the Church—a life whose exercise will reveal in personal consciousness to the believer, and present to the world around more beautiful and valuable fruit. Now the question arises, What is that higher and better life? We have no hesitation in saying it is what in Methodist parlance we entitle 'Entire sanctification,' implying the specific, intelligent, complete, and everlasting consecration of all our regenerated powers to God—a consecration, of course, including the surrender of every doubtful indulgence, and the willing acceptance of any and every test of Christian obedience—and, in addition, implying the constant resting in Christ by faith as our full and perfect Saviour, trusting Him not only to save us, *but to keep us saved*. Let the Church accept this privilege, so exceeding great and precious—let her perform this service, so reasonable and scriptural, and her spiritual life will be *more divine, more practical, and more enduring*.

"1. It will be more divine. Consecrating ourselves without any reservation or limitations to the service of God, and concerned to accept of Christ in the fullest sense, we necessarily come nearer to God, and, in a broader and deeper and fuller sense, become partakers of the divine nature—partakers of the divine wisdom—and purity—and gentleness—and patience—and loving kindness and power. But some one will ask, Is this different from the grace received at conversion? We answer, No! it is only more of that precious grace—as we sometimes hear, it is a '*deeper work of grace*.' Christ comes in His spiritual presence to abide in our soul, and while we trust in Him, He assumes the entire responsibility of our complete salvation. Now, without wasting time on disputed theories or theological distinctions, let us ask, Is not this the great need of the spiritual life of the Church?—is not this a conscious and confessed want in our experience as professing Christians?

"We have life, but we do not have it abundantly. We love God, but we do not love Him with a perfect love—for a perfect love is necessarily

dependent upon a perfect consecration ; just at the point that our consecration is imperfect our love is imperfect, for it is then a divided, which is an imperfect love. We walk in the path of obedience, but we do not always stand up and go steadily forward in that path. We have peace with God as the result of our justification and adoption, but we can not testify to perfect rest—the rest of perfect order, perfect activity, perfect security, perfect faith, perfect love, and perfect peace in the soul. The spiritual life of the Church needs, beyond all cavil or controversy, the elevation, invigoration, and inspiration that this grace of Christian holiness would give it.

“2. But again, the acceptance of our full Gospel privilege would make the spiritual life of the Church not only more pure and divine, but *more practical*.

“Need we say that one of the greatest desideratums of the Church, and one of the most peremptory demands of the world around, is a more practical piety. Men will judge of our religion, not so much by what it is, as by what it does. Now you will be reminded that the higher Christian life for which we plead involves an entire consecration of ourselves to God, and this consecration implies the use of all we have and are in harmony with the divine will, and for the promotion of the divine glory. It writes on our hands, our feet, our senses, our bodies, ‘All sacred to Jesus.’ It uses our understanding, judgment, imagination, memory, conscience, will, and affections, all as belonging to Jesus. It holds the gifts of God’s providence, such as time, health, energy, reputation, influence, home, kindred, friends, property, all as subordinate to the will of Jesus. It takes the entire man for Jesus. In his life it makes him temperate, gentle, careful, humble, earnest, honest, liberal, and loving. In his political relations it makes him as conscientious and pure as in the ordering of his private religious life. In his business it lifts him up from the mere drudgery of a respectable but debasing selfishness, and, filling him with Christian principles, and linking all his secular transactions with the divine service, it makes him a co-worker with God in the world’s elevation and salvation. In his family it erects the altar of domestic worship—supplies the inspiration of a Christian example, diffuses around the atmosphere of love, welcomes the presence of Jesus, and thus constitutes the home as the house of God, and the very gate of Heaven.

“3. One other suggestion is, that the spiritual life of the Church needs to be *more enduring*.

“Confined at present too much to sacred places and special seasons, the tendency is to impulsive, spasmodic, irregular, and unreliable religious life. It glows in the summer amid the hallowed privileges of the consecrated forest. It burns in the fall or winter when revival fires are blazing upon our

Church altars. It emits fitful gleams on the Sabbath-day, or in the class-room, or in the prayer-meeting, but a strong, round, full, regular, satisfying, steadily increasing religious life—a life that is as consistent at home as away from home; as faithful in little things as in great matters; as careful in a transaction that the world will never hear of, as in one that shall be blazoned before the Church and the world—ah! this is the pure and abiding life that the Church needs and must have. Let Christ in his spiritual presence *abide in the heart*, the life of our life, the soul of our soul, bringing all our habits and practices into harmony with the divine will, and the spiritual life of the Church shall of necessity become more divine—more practical—more enduring.

“Brothers, is not this our need? Observe, we do not plead for changes or improvements in our ecclesiastical machinery—we hold that nearly all the main features of our working economy are the gifts of God’s providence, and can not with advantage be substituted by different arrangements. Again, we do not argue for or insist upon a higher standard of piety. The standard as we conceive has been fixed by Christ himself, and is as old as the Apostolic age. Not able to elevate it, and not willing to lower it one iota, we simply say to those who are equally responsible and interested with ourselves, *Let us measure up to it*. Let us be a holy people. Holiness is power. What the Church needs, what the world around is looking and waiting for, is more of power. We must have it for the fulfillment of our high and holy mission, viz., the spiritual conquest of the world. Entire sanctification—says Dr. Abel Stevens, in his admirable history—was the great potential idea of early Methodism. It made our first preachers mighty, irresistible, a flame of fire. It made our fathers and mothers an aggressive power and an almost unparalleled blessing in their day. It took hold upon the conscience and hearts of the unsaved in great communities. ‘Wherever,’ said Mr. Wesley, ‘the work of sanctification revives, the work of God revives in its different branches.’ ‘This,’ he remarked, ‘is the great depositum which God has given to the people called Methodists. Their mission is to spread scriptural holiness over these lands.’ Observe, not that *generic holiness* which, promoting repentance, faith, justification, regeneration, and holy living, claims that it is spreading scriptural holiness. All the evangelical churches join with us to do this. Our special mission, as we understand, is to hold up entire sanctification as an experience to be obtained by faith, and, because by faith, to be obtained now. *This, secured in a specific sense, becomes our best preparation to spread it in both a specific and a generic sense.*

“Oh, brothers! successors to Coke and Asbury and Abbott and Garrettson, take up and carry forward the banner of holiness that they planted so

faithfully in this region. Methodist people of the Peninsula, who in the midst of fierce fires of opposition have demonstrated so undeniably your civil and ecclesiastical loyalty, clinging with a heroic devotion to your mother nation and your mother Church, covenant that this historic ground, already glorious, shall be made more glorious still.

"Rekindle the old fires, rekindle them in every county, in every township, in every neighborhood, in every home, in every heart. Take the entire region for God. Bring its warm hearts, its growing wealth, its multiplied comforts, its rich abundance, its acknowledged advantages, and lay all upon the Christian altar. Ask, believe, and wait for the promised baptism of the Holy Ghost, and, with an unprecedented endowment of spiritual life, the Church and territory within the limits of the Wilmington Conference shall vindicate the language of prophecy : 'Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken, neither shall thy land be termed Desolate ; but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah ; for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.'"

I quote from the published proceedings an account of the concluding service of the Convention :

"The Communion service that followed formed a most beautiful, appropriate, and profitable finale of these days of privilege. Ministers and members from all parts of the Wilmington Conference gathered around the same hallowed altar. The pastors of the Presbyterian and Protestant Episcopal Churches of Smyrna, with many of their communicants, participated in this service. It was an hour never to be forgotten. Surely,

"Heaven came down our souls to greet,  
And glory crowned the mercy-seat."

At the close of this memorable Communion, when the very atmosphere around seemed sacred with the divine presence, Rev. Alfred Cookman, called upon, said :

"Brethren, it is good for us to be here. As we look around and recognize these ministers and people of sister churches uniting with us in commemorating the love of our common Lord, the sentiment instinctively leaps to our lips, 'Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.' Over this scene I fancy I see stretching a rainbow composed of the different evangelical churches ; for while, like the colors of the natural rainbow, each Church retains its identity, yet at the same time

beautifully blending, sweetly harmonizing, we present altogether the advancing sign, the infallible pledge of our world's triumphant redemption. During these hallowed moments I have been reminded of the broken alabaster box of which mention is made on the New Testament page. It has occurred to me that each of the denominations may be supposed to have their fragment still redolent with the fragrance of truth. When we come together on these delightful occasions, is it not to unite our fragments, and so reconstruct the box? and oh, say, does not the great Head of the Church vouchsafe the unction of the Holy One? does not the precious perfume arising fill the house, aye, and does it not promise to fill earth and heaven too with love and joy and praise?

"Brethren, it is the moment of parting. We shall never all meet again under similar circumstances. How blessed the truth that *Christians never part for the last time*. We separate, but it is as the angels do, going forth for the performance of the divine will, but with the assurance that our home is before the throne, and that

"We shall meet again,  
Meet ne'er to sever;  
Meet when love shall wreath her chain  
Round us forever."

"Thank God, we belong to a sky-born, sky-guided, sky-returning race, and sweetly the peace march beats, 'Home, brothers, home!'

Dr. Morsell, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, then stepped forward, and, all aglow with blessed feeling, said:

"This is your feast in your own house; and yet I have not been willing that you should have it all to yourselves. Oh! how I have enjoyed the past three days! We have felt the prayer of Jesus answered, 'that they may all be one, as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us.' And now, why are not the Christian world more completely one? Is it not because of their want of love to Jesus? I declare to-night my love for these brethren—a love that has its source in my love for the Saviour. While I have been feasting with you, I have looked around to recognize some of my own people here. I would that the whole Church to-night could feel as I feel. We have lived too much strangers to one another. This is wrong. It is the same many-mansioned house. I am only, so to speak, in another room of God's great house. Let us live and meet around the throne."

The tide of feeling had now reached its highest point, and,

overflowing, the entire congregation sprang to their feet, when Mr. Cookman, grasping the hand of the Episcopal clergyman on his left and the hand of the Presbyterian pastor on his right, proposed that members of the Convention and all the Christian people present should clasp hands and join to sing—

“ Say, brothers, will you meet me  
On Canaan’s happy shore ?”

It was a beautiful scene. Tears were flowing, praises resounding all over the house, as, with thrilling tones, the large audience pledged themselves, singing again and again—

“ By the grace of God we’ll meet you  
Where parting is no more.”

A member of the Convention, the Rev. J. H. Lightbourn, in a letter, says, “ Mr. Cookman’s closing address, though impromptu, was one of the most beautiful and thrilling to which I ever listened.”

A rare and pleasing incident, in the autumn of this year, in connection with the pastorate of Grace Church, was the celebration of the birthday of a centenarian, Mr. Joseph Lynam. I give a brief extract of an account which was published in *The Methodist Home Journal*, from the pen of Mr. Cookman :

“ Last week the hundredth birthday of Mr. Joseph Lynam was celebrated at the house of his son-in-law, Mr. Delaplaine McDaniel, near Wilmington.

“ The company, composed almost entirely of family connections, began to arrive about one o’clock P.M. It was beautiful and delightful to witness the mingling of four generations—great-grandchildren, grandchildren, children, and the venerable parent. Father Lynam was of course the centre of the group—all vying in thoughtful attentions and loving services. This interesting man, the eldest son of John and Ann Lynam, was born on the 11th of October, 1770, nearly six years before the Declaration of American Independence.”

On the 24th of December, 1870, Mr. Abraham Bruner, the father of Mrs. Cookman, was struck with paralysis, after which he gradually failed, until he died on the 3d of March following,

aged seventy-eight years. He had been a member of the Methodist Church since his fifteenth year, and in the town where he lived so long was universally esteemed for his religious and social worth, his business probity and success. In his last illness Mr. Cookman wrote him these tender and comforting words :

“Your spiritual interests have been considered through a long succession of years, and He who has been with you tenderly declares, ‘I will not cast you off in old age, neither will I forsake you when your strength faileth.’ Commit your destiny entirely into the hands of your covenant-keeping Lord. Loosen your grasp on every thing but Jesus, and during the rest of your earthly sojourn He will give you to abide in the land of Beulah, where the birds sing, and the sun shines, and the flowers bloom, and every thing is bright and beautiful and blessed. Then, accompanied by the angels, you shall go over the river, and on the shining shore meet the loved ones who are gathering there, and, better than all besides, see the King in His beauty.”

The letter of Mr. Cookman to his friends, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Price, of Philadelphia, consoling them in the death of a child, will be recalled. It now became his pleasant duty to congratulate them on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage. He could rejoice with the happy and weep with the sorrowful. He addressed them in substance as follows :

“OUR DEAR FRIENDS,—Allow us to offer our most affectionate congratulations. Twenty-five years of married life ! In memory a hand-breadth, a beautiful dream when one awaketh, but crowded full of deeply interesting incidents. During this period your children have been born ; of whom those living, like good wine, seem to be constantly improving with age, and the others, who have died, never to be forgotten, the glorified, are safely housed far beyond the reach of temptation, sorrow, and sin.

“During these years there has been, oh, how much of toil and perplexity in business life, but relieved by the steady increase, the encouraging success with which Providence has favored you ! A majority of those who started out with you have been overwhelmed in failure, while your course has been prosperously onward. During these years you have shared the palmy days of old St. George’s, and then Green Street, and now Spring Garden Street



churches. The first named especially will furnish memories that constitute some of the brightest sunshine of the past. During these years you have been a sturdy warrior in some of the leading moral reforms, and have lived long enough to see the death of *American Slavery*, and to witness *Lay Delegation* putting its foot proudly upon the threshold of the inner sanctuary of American Methodism.

"There is certainly great occasion for congratulation, rejoicing, and tender thankfulness as you retrospect the interesting fact, but especially should your hearts overflow with gratitude as you think of one another.

"The Christmas season of 1845 gave my sister the present of a husband—honest, earnest, virtuous, industrious, faithful; and if he has sometimes been impulsive and blunt, she has at the same time known that the hasty manner and strong style were his *peculiarities*, and were *nothing* when balanced against his other sterling virtues; and then that same 26th of December gave my old friend a wife, that infinite wisdom and love arranged just for him—a special Providence—for I know that he would not exchange her gentleness, quietness, prudence, neatness, and practicalness for all the attractions that the woman of literature, or of fashion, or of worldly styles could possibly have offered him. Now, own up, my truthful old friend, and say if, in arranging you a comfortable home, and watching over your cherished children, and diligently and ceaselessly studying your happiness during these twenty-five blessed years, she has not bankrupted you to such an extent that it would be impossible for you to pay the debt of love you owe? But more than all else, your home during these years has been a *Christian* home, honored and sanctified by the presence of Jesus. Your family altar has not been permitted to fall down, but every day you have invoked upon yourselves and your dear children the blessing of Him whose blessing maketh rich and addeth no sorrow. Let this quarter of a century heap on the fuel! Clamber up upon that Ebenezer you are building to-day, and as you look back through your tears of gratitude, marking all the way that a kind Providence has led you, sing, in your clear tenor tones—

"When all Thy mercies, oh my God,  
My rising soul surveys,  
Transported with the bliss, I'm lost  
In wonder, love, and praise."

While upon the silver altar of your twenty-fifth anniversary you renew your vows to love, honor, and cherish one another so long as ye both shall live, at the same time turn your thoughts heavenward, and, influenced by the mercies of God, covenant not to be more devoted, but to be entirely devoted to the service and glory of Jesus."

To Mr. Robert P. Smith, editor of *Showers of Blessing*:

“WILMINGTON, December 30, 1870.

“I am just now in receipt of your note. How gloriously God is working! These instances of which you write are literal miracles of grace. *Eternal praise!*

“I can hardly restrain myself this afternoon from hastening to the side of dear Mr. —, not that I could help or serve him, but I could at least witness the grace of God in him, and be with him at the foot of the precious cross.

“I have, however, a special engagement this evening, and to-morrow will be entirely filled with peremptory duties. Next week is the week of prayer. We have arranged for special services every day, both *afternoon* and *evening*.

“While, therefore, I could enjoy association with you in any services or under any circumstances, still I must regard home claims as primary, and deny myself.

“I was delighted to hear the experience of our brother, P. P.—.

“That ‘*blessed evening*’ at Ivy Lodge was certainly in God’s order, and seems to be developing more than we had asked or even thought. If Brother P— shall go over the world singing full salvation, it will be like the addition of a sweet-voiced angel to our ranks. We had your precious sister at our Wednesday meeting, who encouraged us with blessed tidings concerning your ‘*saved father*.’ Wishing you the best blessings of the Highest, who giveth us Christmas, New-year’s, and every good and perfect gift, I am yours in the fellowship of the Spirit.”

The time drew nigh when Mr. Cookman’s pastoral relations with Grace Church must be dissolved. He probably had never been more useful for a single term. With a magnificent church building, a large congregation of thoughtful, sympathizing persons, in a city small enough to be easily compassed, and yet large and active enough to afford variety, surrounded by a community of generous hospitality, and assured by the most marked results of the usefulness of his ministry and his acceptability with the people generally, his days had glided along most delightfully. No great sorrow had entered his home or his immediate family, except the death of the aged Mr. Bruner, which was in the course of nature, and really the term at Grace seemed as a day in the lightness which love, joy, friendship, and success had imparted to every burden. He loved the people, and they

loved him. The services he rendered to the cause of vital religion and good morals will not soon be forgotten by the citizens of Wilmington.

The Rev. George H. Smyth, late pastor of the West Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware, has kindly furnished some of his impressions of Mr. Cookman while they were neighboring ministers in that city :

"It was my privilege to labor in the city of Wilmington, Delaware, side by side with Brother Cookman for more than two years. The last year of his residence there we were often thrown together in devotional meetings, and met at social gatherings.

"The same unbroken uniformity of a calm, genial temperament ever rested upon him. Truly he looked like one that possessed a peace the world can neither give nor take away. Nor was it an acquired, stoical indifference that made him insensible to surrounding influences, for he had a most susceptible nature, that sympathized with every thing that was innocent around him. He always appeared solemn and dignified in his bearing, and at the same time easy and unaffected in his manners.

"He had a keen sense of the ludicrous, and would laugh till he shook all over. I remember on one occasion we were in one of the Union prayer-meetings, held the first week of the new year, when an amusing incident occurred. \* \* \* Mr. Cookman was seated on the platform, and, as a suppressed smile passed all over the meeting, I shall never forget the efforts he made to preserve his gravity, his hands over his face, and his whole body shaking with laughter. 'Oh,' said he afterward, 'I did want to get off the platform to some place where I could laugh !'

"And yet, with all his pleasantry and readiness to contribute to the enjoyment of the social gathering, no man was freer from a spirit of levity or irreverence for sacred things than was Brother Cookman. He was a very spiritually minded man, and seemed to breathe continually a devotional atmosphere.

"In no place did he seem more at home than in a prayer-meeting. He was a fine singer, and in his selection of appropriate and beautiful hymns, sung with his rich, mellow voice, and in his earnest pleadings with God, he would diffuse the sweetest devotional spirit into all present, and often melt the congregation to tears. While the people were kneeling sometimes at the close of a prayer, he would start a hymn, which contained a petition just as suited to the occasion as if it had been written for it, and all would sing it through on their knees before God, and then one and another would burst forth with earnest prayer.

"In this way, without calling on any one or urging any one to speak or pray, he would kindle the flame of devotion until no one could keep silent.

"The Orthodox Friends—than whom no more godly people are to be found in that city—were many of them attracted to his church, and associated with him in Christian work.

"Perhaps no man ever exerted a wider or better influence in that community, in the same time, than did Alfred Cookman, and no man was more highly esteemed or more tenderly loved. And why should he not? To very many his life and labors had proved, under God, an unspeakable blessing.

"The moulding power of Brother Cookman's godly life over Grace Church just at a most important period of its early history will continue, I doubt not, to bless that Church to its latest day; so it will many outside of that Church who were brought in contact with his great, catholic, Christ-like spirit.

"For, while a decided Methodist, Brother Cookman was a man of large heart, expansive views, and a charity that cordially fellowshiped with all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence he was ever ready for co-operation with any or all the other denominations in any movement for advancing the cause of Christ in the community or in the world. I have heard it said by old men that never before had there been such a kind, fraternizing spirit among all denominations of Christians as there was at that time in Wilmington."

The following tribute, in harmony with Mr. Smyth's statement, appeared just before Mr. Cookman's removal, in *The Wilmington Commercial*:

"The Rev. Mr. Cookman closes the last three years of his ministry in this city on next Sabbath. They have been years of indefatigable labor, of great acceptability, and distinguished success. Being the first pastor in the great Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, the most beautiful church, we think, on this continent, it was his to settle its spiritual foundations, and give tone and evangelical views to its worshipers, and start the Church on in deeds of great enterprise. He has borne up the ark of testimony by his own personal piety, by his faithful and eloquent preaching, his labors in Sabbath-schools, in the temperance cause, missionary operations, and, in fact, in every good word and work among the sister churches and other denominations. He truly possesses a union and fraternal spirit, and wherever he goes he has a hand and heart for every body.

"It is with deep regret that his brethren of the Wilmington Conference

part with him, and many of the laity will follow him with tearful eyes, and prayerful wishes that they may meet again on this side of the grave, and if not, that they may meet in heaven. The young, to whom he has been peculiarly useful, and who are sincerely attached to him, will be deeply affected. May good angels go with him."

The parting interviews of the beloved pastor with his Church in all its departments—the general congregation, the Sunday-school, the social meeting—were deeply affecting, but with none more so than with the chosen circle of persons who were in the habit of attending the Wednesday-afternoon meeting. Mr. W. S. Hillis, a minister of the Society of Friends, in opening the Wednesday-afternoon meeting at which Mr. Cookman was last present before leaving, felt impressed to select the account of St. Paul's last charge to the elders of the Church of Ephesus, Acts xx., 17, etc. ; and as he read the verses concluding, "And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him ; sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more," he was overcome by his emotions. Mr. Cookman and the whole audience wept, and for some time the sorrow was so uncontrollable as to make it impossible to proceed with the services. Alas ! how prophetic the selection of those words !

## CHAPTER XXIII.

CENTRAL CHURCH, NEWARK, N. J.—OCEAN GROVE CAMP-GROUND.

—NATIONAL CAMP-MEETINGS AT ROUND LAKE AND URBANA.

FOR months prior to March, 1871, Mr. Cookman's mind had been agitated with the question of his next appointment. He had been invited to Boston, Mass., Chicago, Ill., Cincinnati, Ohio, Washington, D. C., Philadelphia, Pa., and Newark, N. J., and pressed earnestly in all these cases to entertain the proposition for a transfer. He undoubtedly meant, when he returned to the Philadelphia Conference, to remain in it for life ; but the division of the Conference in 1868 had unexpectedly thrown him out of it into the Wilmington Conference, and now his Conference relations were again unsettled. So imperative seemed the demand for his services in certain important churches in the controlling centres of population and influence, that he finally yielded, though reluctantly, to higher convictions of duty—in regard to the freest interchange of ministers throughout the whole Church—and consented to be transferred to the Newark Conference, and was stationed at the Central Church, Market Street, Newark, N. J. This proved to be his last transfer and his last appointment in the Church. At the next roll-call, at the name of Alfred Cookman, instead of the round, full, silvery "*here,*" there would be silence and tears.

In view of the frequency of Mr. Cookman's transfers from one Conference to another, and of the class of churches which he generally served, a communication from Mr. John Thompson, of Philadelphia, will be found pertinent. A letter from himself to a lady friend reveals the same earnest desire that ever attended these changes, to know and follow the divine

will. An incident also occurred before he left Grace, while his mind was yet undetermined as to the course he should take.

There was a little prayer-meeting at which were present some of his closest friends. He prayed earnestly to be directed to go where God might will—to *suffer or to die* for Him; and requested his friends to make special prayer. The next morning they all said "Newark."

From Mr. John Thompson to Mrs. Annie E. Cookman:

"PHILADELPHIA, March 22, 1873.

"Some time before you left Grace Church, Wilmington, Del., I wrote to Brother Cookman in reference to his future field of labor. You know that our intimacy was such that we freely opened our hearts to each other on all such subjects. I kept no copy of my letter, and do not recollect the precise wording, but the substance which I recollect distinctly was that for some time I had been strongly impressed with the conviction that his usefulness would be greatly increased if he were allowed the privilege of filling a different class of appointments. I recollect I named such churches as Kensington, Tabernacle, and Ebenezer, of this city. I urged that while he had the ability to succeed in what are called first-class churches, such as he had been filling, that the proposed charges, with the same untiring effort, deep piety, and popular ability for which he was so remarkable, would yield a much more glorious harvest. I closed with the solicitation that he would give me his views and convictions in this connection.

"The promptness of his reply indicated his deep interest in the subject. I regret that I did not preserve his letter. He said he was glad I proposed the inquiry. It was a subject that had caused him the most intense solicitude. The great matter with him was to ascertain clearly what the Lord would have him do (on this point he was sometimes confused), but a clear conviction of the will of God settled all other questions in his mind. First-class churches were seemingly a necessity of the times. Somebody must be appointed to the pastoral charge. Without any seeking on his part some of them asked for his services, and it was the opinion of the bishops that this was his proper sphere of labor. He considered when he entered on the itinerant work of the ministry that he surrendered the question of the field of his labor to the *godly* judgment of the bishops, and if they should at any time change their judgment and appoint him to such fields of labor as I had suggested, it would give him great satisfaction. As far as he had any choice in the matter, he thought this would be his preference.

"He claimed that it was generally understood that he preferred the free-seat system—that on this subject he had not sought to conceal his views, but that he did not feel called on to disturb the peace of the Church on this subject, as he had unbounded confidence in the piety of those who held opposite views. He supposed that Newark, N. J., would be his next field of labor, but if it were not the will of God, he trusted that all arrangements in this direction would be defeated. I do not pretend to give Brother Cookman's precise words, but I think I correctly give you his sentiments as expressed in the letter referred to."

To Mrs. Lewis, of Columbus, O. :

" WILMINGTON, September 20, 1870.

\* \* \* "Last Friday I was disappointed in not dining with you and Homer, but some brethren, waylaying me, marched me off to the *Continental*, and took nearly all my noon-time in pressing upon my attention the claims and attractions of their pastorate. I am sure I could enjoy it and be useful in that sphere, but what am I to do? The calls begin to come in, and among the rest a very special one from Cincinnati. The mention of *Ohio* will make Homer's heart thrill. I love it *for his sake*, but have myself never felt any wonderful drawing to the West—dread the long journey for my large family, the laborious house-keeping in that smoky atmosphere, the separation from our mothers and life-long friends, etc., etc. Still I want to move in God's order, and this may be His order. Oh, for a voice from Heaven! It is too bad for so many people to put their cares on your kind heart, but you know that, apart from kindred, you are one of my *very dearest friends* in the world. Homer will not upbraid me when I say that I love you—aye, and him, too, with a true, pure, and blessed love in the Lord Jesus Christ. For nearly twelve years your friendship has been as true as the needle to the pole, while the remembrance of your self-sacrificing services in times of trial fills my heart with unutterable gratitude to Almighty God for your sisterly affection. Will you not, then, let me ask that you will especially pray that I may be guided at this most important juncture? God can overrule my mistakes. I know that, but I do not want to make any mistake. I desire to choose the right and the best way.

"Give my best love to Homer.

"Annie starts for Philadelphia to-morrow, taking the baby, of course. He is intensely sweet—a drop of *Heaven's honey* laid on our hearts."

The Central Church, Newark, gave a cordial welcome to their new pastor. He found a large and handsome church edifice,



well located, with a thrifty, active, and generous membership, disposed in every way to promote his comfort and usefulness. Within a few brief weeks he was ensconced with his family in their pleasant home, and he was as deeply immersed in the duties of the pastorate as if no change had taken place from one charge to another. The facility with which pastors go from Church to Church, and with which the churches accept one pastor after another, is inexplicable to persons outside of Methodism. The only explanation is, it is law and usage—ministers and people have become accustomed to the system, and, content with its workings, they accept it as a matter of course, and as the wisest arrangement for the whole Church. The prompt and cheerful acquiescence in the plan does not, however, preclude the sharp pangs caused by the severance of pastoral relations—many times the pastor's heart aches for the absent flock, and the people's hearts yearn for the recent pastor—but soon the new pastor and the new people become so taken up with each other as to prevent undue pain, while the strong attachments of former relationships are silently cherished as the pure and tender memories of a past which is ever present.

To Mr. W. S. Hillis, of Wilmington, Delaware :

“NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, April 25, 1871.

“You have not been an itinerant minister, and yet can form some idea of the duties claiming attention upon the threshold of a new pastorate. Home must be re-arranged, visits must be made, the new routine of service must be found out and entered upon, etc., etc.

“Comfortably situated domestically, we begin to feel like living again. Our new charge has made a very generous provision for our comfort. Our home is commodious, centrally located, nicely furnished, and very comfortable.

“How is your Wednesday meeting prospering in Wilmington?

“Steady persistence just now will do much toward establishing our precious friends in the truth and grace of God. How important and blessed it is to be *‘established in the faith.’* David testifies, *‘he hath established my goings.’* But we can not hope for this any where else than in the path of obedience. Oh! to have that settled principle—that unswerving purpose—

that steady faith—that unremitting love—that keeps our feet in the right way, and prepares us to go strongly and triumphantly forward. Persevering faithfulness during this year will obtain for the dear brothers and sisters, through Jesus, this establishing grace, and thus from young recruits they will grow to be veterans, who can be trusted in the great battle that is going on between sin and holiness.

“My circumstances during the last few weeks have not been favorable to quiet, steady Christian growth—at least so the human would suggest—and yet, moving as I humbly believe in a providential path, I have not been forsaken. In the life of faith I have been constantly associated with the Lord Jesus, and He has been overruling all for my spiritual advantage. When I left my Wilmington friends, whom I loved so tenderly, He gave me to realize that I might not quit for a moment His blessed side. When I was without a home, He sweetly reminded me of the permanent mansion that He is arranging for my enjoyment. When I had the trial of meeting and preaching to a strange people, he kindly whispered, ‘Lo, I am with you alway,’ and then vindicated His own encouraging truth. When I sat down in our present comfortable abode, I said, ‘All this is of God.’ I love the infinite Giver more for His unmerited and multiplied gifts—and thus my unsettlement, and then my settlement again, have both been pressed into the service, and redound to the advantage of my higher spiritual nature.

“Was it not Martin Luther who said that ‘God dwells in Salem rather than in Babylon.’ Bless His holy name, He makes my heart ‘Salem,’ and then He himself abides in the midst of this sacred, quiet, and satisfying peace. His precious voice, still, small, and sweet, could not be heard amid the confusion of Babylon; but, oh! in this Salem of peace we listen, and hear Him inly speak.

“Will you give my warmest love to all my dear Christian friends in Wilmington. Tell them that my truant thoughts very often run away from Newark, and in imagination I see them in their social circles, or associated in their Wednesday afternoon or evening meeting. Cleansed from sin, let us go on concerned to be without wrinkle or any such thing. After the washing or purifying, there are other processes used by the Power or Spirit of God in smoothing and adorning and perfecting our characters. We want to be presented *faultless* before the throne of God with exceeding great joy. \* \* \*

“Let us all sit down together in heaven.”

It is evident from the closing sentences of this letter that Mr. Cookman’s mind was, if possible, more than ever absorbed in

the desire for personal holiness. He was increasingly intent upon one object—to be perfect in Christ Jesus. Those who were most intimately associated with him testify that there was a daily dying unto the world and living unto Christ, such as exceeded his former habit—his whole being appeared to be constantly enveloped in an atmosphere of devotion, of heavenly converse, of serene yet active love. He impressed all who came in contact with him that he was so far separated from the world, all its corruptions and even frailties, that no term could so adequately sum up the assemblage of his graces, or so fitly characterize him as—*saintliness*. The “spots” and “wrinkles” had so far faded from the beauteous face of his soul, that it was manifest the hidden force of the Spirit was evolving from its workings that effectual and final outgrowth which was to constitute completeness in the spiritual man. “Other processes” than this inward working of the Holy Ghost might be needed ere this completeness is reached, ere the divine Artificer puts the last touch of beauty on the sacred work which is to abide forever. His eyes are held, however, that he can not see what these processes may be—perhaps wisely. There was more work for him to do—the day still shone brightly—myriad voices called him to action—and, though admonished by casual bodily ailments, of sufferings heretofore never dreaded, because never even partially known, yet, in happy ignorance of the terrible ordeal which awaited him, he could only see the claims of the day, in which alone his work could be done.

As in every previous charge, so at Central, Mr. Cookman began very soon to see the effects of an earnest ministry in a quickened Church, an increasing congregation, and the general signs of the esteem of the people. There seemed to be every reasonable indication that in coming to Newark he was in the path of duty. A little incident occurred not many weeks after his entrance upon the pastorate which helped to confirm this conviction. A devout lady of the Church, about two years

prior to his appointment, when greatly burdened on account of the coldness of the people of Central, exclaimed in her closet, "Oh, if the Lord would only send the Rev. Alfred Cookman to us!" This prayer she felt constrained to make, believing as she did that he would be the best one to lead them up to a higher life. When he was sent she thought it was in answer to prayer, and so told her new pastor. His reply was, "It is very encouraging."

As evidence of the deep interest he at once felt in the individuals of the Church and the Christian work they were doing, either singly or as organized bands, the same lady has narrated the following :

"I was present one afternoon at the business-meeting of our 'Pastor's Aid Society.' As we all knelt down at the opening prayer, I said to myself, almost involuntarily, 'Oh, if he would only pray for me too.' As I turned around to watch his lips, I caught the words, 'Bless the dear young sister whose ears are closed to outward sounds.' It was heard and answered, as my soul *then* and *there* received conscious strength.

"Did you ever hear that one afternoon, as Sister O—— and I were out visiting among our sick and poor, we realized *so unusually* the presence and smile of Jesus? We both spoke of it, and praised our loving Heavenly Father. We afterward learned that on that same afternoon Brother Cookman had called at Sister O.'s, and, on learning where we were, he knelt down and asked Jesus to be with and bless us. How clearly that *prayer of faith* was honored!"

Far reaching as was Mr. Cookman's ministerial influence, by reason not only of his fame, but his actual pastoral and occasional services in the Church, he never became too great for the little duties of the parish. Outside engagements, however numerous and clamorous, were not allowed to press aside the work which was due his own people in their proper organization, visitation and instruction. Here at Newark, as elsewhere, the spring and early summer were devoted to regular pastoral calls, to the formation of such helps as would facilitate his own usefulness and develop the talents and graces of the mem-

bers of the Church and congregation. The mention of "The Pastor's Aid Society" affords evidence of his quickness to utilize the female element of the Church wherever he went. He believed in woman's work for the Church and for humanity; and as a minister was always successful in winning the affections and confidence of the ladies of the Church, and organizing them for high and beneficent ends. Ere midsummer the Central Church was alive with religious activity. The whole membership had caught a spark from the heart of the living, working pastor.

Before following the devoted pastor upon his last great summer tour of evangelistic labor, I give some letters which relate more especially to his Church.

To Mrs. Stevens, of Wilmington, Delaware :

"NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, June 1, 1871.

"What a good long letter you penned for our enjoyment! We read and re-read it, appreciating and thankful for your allusions to all the little matters that we are concerned to know. Thanks—a thousand thanks! We sincerely hope that your dear friendship will arrange at an early day another entertainment of the same sort; nor need you fear to oppress or cloy us with the variety and amount of the provisions. We have a wonderful appetite and an amazing capacity in this direction. Is not our unwillingness to be forgotten one of the indications of our immortality? I will not, then, conclude that my pleasure in learning that my friends still hold me in affectionate remembrance was a proof of lingering selfishness, so developing depravity, but rather the expression of that nobler nature with which the Divinity has been pleased to invest me.

"Tell Jennie I thank God for her loving appreciation, and the very beautiful but undeserved expression of that appreciation that you quote in your letter. For yourself and your dear children I shall always entertain a more than ordinary interest and affection. It was a common joy to welcome you one after the other to the fellowship of Christ's Church; to see you sitting together a united and happy family at the Master's feet; to observe your development in Christian character and life; to share, as we so frequently have, the communications of infinite love and blessing. Truly, I have tasted your varied experiences, weeping with you when you have wept, rejoicing with you when you have rejoiced.

"The past furnishes an easy explanation of our common sympathies and deep, warm, Christian love. It was inspiring to learn that, led by the Spirit, you are going on from strength to strength. This strength, as it is the in-working of the divine, is so blessed, for it prepares us to comprehend, with all saints, the height and depth, and length and breadth, and to know the love of God that passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fullness of God. You are a trusting child in the arms of the Infinite, and He proposes to carry you higher and higher forever and ever—new treasures of knowledge—new realizations of joy—new experiences of love—more and more and more of God as long as eternal ages roll.

"Oh, how we should adore that grace *that has made us willing* in the day of His power! We meet with so many that seem entirely blind and deaf and insensible respecting the possibilities of their spiritual being. They do not see, do not want to see—aye, it seems impossible to make them see the things that belong to their peace, and link themselves with their character and destiny. Is it not an occasion of unutterable thankfulness that the great Healer has said to us *Ephphatha*, and our eyes are opened—we see Jesus; and in and through Jesus a vista of privilege that invites and satisfies, and opens in constantly increasing expectation forever and ever?

"You have learned through others that we are pleasantly situated in our new field of labor. Our church, a Gothic structure, is about twenty years old. The audience-room, beautifully proportioned, is perhaps a little dark. It has an organ-gallery and side galleries. The light in the evening is furnished by gas jets, that flame like a crown of glory around the capitals of the several pillars that support the galleries and ceiling. The effect is fine. Our congregations are good—not crowded. The church never has been popularized. The lower floor is generally well filled, and a fair sprinkling through the galleries. The friends here are delighted with the attendance—say it is double the number they have been accustomed to see. I preach to more people in Newark than I did in Wilmington. God has been very good to me in my pulpit ministrations. He has vouchsafed His own light and love and power, and I think I have never had greater or more continuous liberty in the proclamation of His truth. My people are very pleasant, greatly attached to their Church, united among themselves—no parties, no rivalries, no bickerings, very little if any of aristocratic feeling. As a membership, they are not very spiritual. I am thankful, however, to report marked progress already. Our general prayer-meeting, held on Tuesday evening in the chapel, is largely attended, and richly enjoyed by all present. The singing is spirited and general, and you may be sure that the 'precious blood' is not left out. The prayers are growing in earnestness and faith,

and again and again there has been the descent of the refreshing cloud of the divine presence and glory. There are a few earnest women who are walking clearly in the light of full salvation. For my inspiration they are more than all the rest of the membership. One of them, a Sister F—, is a strong, wise, established, and useful disciple. She holds a meeting at her own home that has for many years been a fountain of blessing. We are lacking in the young element—not many young men. Perhaps, however, in answer to prayer, God will turn the hearts of this class toward our Church. If so, this great need will be met.

“Now they are calling me, and I must close my letter. It supplies a contrast to your epistle, that was so full of news and deeply interesting. You will, however, accept it as the overflow of a fraternal heart. I have written very little of what I intended to write.”

To Mrs. Lewis, of Ohio :

“NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, July 3, 1871.

“Excuse my lead-pencil. For a week past I have been suffering from a torpid liver, and, spending a good part of my time in a recumbent position, can use my pencil much more conveniently than my pen.

“We received with special thankfulness and joy your most welcome letter. We read it over and over, magnifying that grace which the Heavenly Father causes to abound toward you. Truly you are one of His dear children, to whom He makes special revelations of His truth and His love.

“Week before last Annic and I visited Wilmington. We remained two days, Wednesday and Thursday, enjoying the society of our friends, and attending the commencement exercises of the Female College.

“Our former parishioners, and indeed all we met, were affectionate beyond description.

“On Wednesday afternoon we were associated with the H.’s, H.’s, M.’s, etc., in the meeting for the promotion of holiness. It was an occasion of great interest and blessing. The service is held now in St. Paul’s Methodist Church, and led by its pastor, a gentle and good man. I am sorry to report that the attendance is not as good as formerly, but the little band are holding on and growing up into Christ. We met this precious circle socially again and again, and realized that we were antedating one of the blessed enjoyments of Heaven. You were alluded to by one and another most affectionately. For nearly two months our friend, William G—, had been absent in the West, which is probably the reason why you did not see more of them previous to your departure from Philadelphia.

“As I passed through Philadelphia on Friday, I seized the opportunity

to be present at the Friday-afternoon meeting, held that day in the Fifth Street Church. The body of the house was filled; there must have been four hundred or five hundred persons present. Brothers Thomson, Gray, Masden, Meredith, Pepper, Lawrence, Stockton, etc., were in their places. There was not very much speaking, as friends were invited to the altar—but it was a meeting of blessed impression and wonderful influence.

“The friends are beginning to turn their faces toward Round Lake. On Friday Mr. and Mrs. E. M——, and Mrs. William G——, Miss N——, etc., passed through here *en route*. Mrs. Cookman thinks that she can not leave her baby for so long a time—but, Providence permitting, she will follow us, and spend two or three days on the ground. I am scarcely in condition to leave home, but am hoping that the change of air, with the use of Saratoga, may tone up my enfeebled energies.

“Your baby boy is one of the sweetest objects outside of Heaven. We constantly fear we love him too much. This time last year you were the good Samaritan of our domestic life. Your loving services will feed the flame of our thankfulness through life, and have endeared you to our hearts as a specially beloved sister. May God continue to bless you, and make you in the West, as in the East, an immense blessing to others. As I think of yourself and Homer, I feel as if I would like to bring you nearer, and live in your society forever; but, thank God, this is our hope. Probationary life is only a brief episode and will soon be over; then we shall sit down together in the everlasting home. Excuse haste—tender love to your dear husband. Write whenever you can.”

Reference has been already seen in Mr. Cookman's correspondence to Ocean Grove camp-ground. He had become so charmed with the spot as to buy a lot there, building a cottage upon it for the accommodation of his family. He was particularly fond of the sea-side. As with his father, so with him, the ocean possessed a great attraction—he could sit by the hour and look out upon its restless life, and commune with its never-ceasing music. His highest physical spirits were excited when he was laved by its waves or walked amid its breezes. A plunge in “old salt,” a stroll by the sea-shore, was enough almost any season to dissipate the *ennui* of overtasked nerves, or the weariness induced by the exhausting heats of the crowded city. He was only too glad to avail himself of the capital opportunity



which the Ocean Grove Association afforded of uniting a summer residence with the facilities of religious culture upon the sea-side, under conditions which would be free from the objections of ordinary fashionable watering-places. The modern innovation of combining the social element of the family life and the devotional element of religious worship in the camp-meeting was pleasing to him, as meeting not only his own want, but also a want which he believed to be quite generally felt among Christian people. Some such resorts had long been needed, where healthful air and innocent pastimes could be had, with cheapness, plainness, and sobriety, associated with such religious exercises as tend to keep alive the pious habits and sentiments of the home left behind; where the moral feelings of those who prefer the stricter virtues will not be constantly shocked with customs which are a violence to good taste, to say nothing of sound morality and vital religion; and where people can be practically taught the union which should always subsist between social and spiritual enjoyments.

The first notable example of this peculiar feature of the camp-meeting was set by the company owning the Wesleyan Grove Camp-ground, on Martha's Vineyard Island, Massachusetts. From rude beginnings the Martha's Vineyard Camp-meeting has grown until it has become a vast watering-place, with additional grounds adjoining under different companies. Whole villages of cottages have been erected, many of them at much cost, with all the devices which necessity and taste can suggest. It is not an uncommon thing for families from remote parts of the country, and of all the different religious denominations, to go thither early in the warm season, and to remain till autumn. The success of Martha's Vineyard has caused similar efforts in various sections, both on the sea-coast and inland, within the past few years. Prominent among them is Ocean Grove, New Jersey. Mr. Cookman was greatly pleased with its success; he prized highly the moments he was able to spend there in the

summer of 1871, and those persons who had the happiness to be with him through those brief days will long cherish the memory of his personal and ministerial influence as among the most pleasant of their lives.

The first trumpet of the summer's campaign summoned Mr. Cookman to the sixth National camp-meeting at Round Lake. Thither the hosts of the higher life were moving; the prospect was for an immense meeting, and the responsibility of the National Committee was correspondingly great; it was felt that none of the active members could be spared, least of all the man whose modest presence, wise counsels, persuasive speech, and holy character constituted him to the cause a tower of strength. He was not well; to his rather enfeebled body and worn mind it would have been delicious to go at once to the sea-side—but no; among the promptest to start for and reach Round Lake was Mr. Cookman. Though young in years he was a veteran in service, and as the war-horse snuffeth the battle afar, and in the first noise of the tumult forgets his stiffened joints, so this our hero of a hundred victories, with the first step upon the field of contest, with the first notes of God's Israel preparing for the charge, forgot all his wounds and weariness, and from beginning to end was in the thickest of the fight, himself farthest on to the front, where the battle raged the fiercest—here, there, every where—personally contending, and by his voice and example cheering on the soldiers of the cross. When the conflict had closed, the smoke had rolled away, the field was won, and the day pronounced glorious in the annals of holiness, no heart was more serenely happy than Mr. Cookman's. His wounds, however, were seen to bleed afresh. His natural force had abated—the elastic spring, the gay, buoyant carriage was perceptibly broken, and the beginning of the end was at hand. But other battles were still to be fought, and further victories to be won.

Some account of the Round Lake meeting, and Mr. Cookman's connection with it, is appropriate :

"This meeting opened in the beautiful grove of Round Lake, in Saratoga County, New York, on the morning of the glorious Fourth. The National Camp-meeting Committee, in full attendance, at once set about the usual services of the occasion, a congregation of several thousands having already arrived. After the experience of the former gathering in this place, two years ago, the committee had provided still more abundantly for the large demands probably to be made upon them. But they soon found that their largest provisions were too small to meet the increased numbers that came up. Over a hundred ministers were on the ground on the day of opening, and every additional train of cars brings new arrivals.

\* \* \* \* \*

"It is observable that, while the meeting is held to the one idea of holiness, that idea is not narrowed down to a technicality, but is made as broad as God's promises, and as extensive as every sinner's need. So the awakening and conversion of sinners is sought and witnessed simultaneously with all the work of grace.

"Among the most efficient means of grace observed is silent prayer. The effect of the awful stillness which sometimes prevails, when these seasons are called for in the midst of an exciting meeting, can hardly be imagined. The value of these soul-hushings is observable in the calm, still sense of power which succeeds them.

"There is great catholicity of feeling prevailing—Baptist and Methodist, Quaker and Episcopalian, Congregationalist and Presbyterian, sitting together 'in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,' without any friction of sectarianism.

"The Sabbath has passed—and such a Sabbath ! Earthly history can not often repeat such days. Its dawn was beautiful, but ushered in with gentle rain, which, however, only freshened the scene, and by no means dampened the ardor of the worshipers.

"The morning prayer-meeting, at five o'clock, was crowded to overflowing from the commencement, and for two hours the vast multitude maintained an unceasing strain of worship.

"The attendance on this day largely outnumbered that at the great meeting in this place two years ago ; and although by five o'clock in the morning the vehicles came in from every direction, and by nine o'clock covered many acres of ground, there was no more confusion and disorder than on an ordinary Sabbath at home. The love-feast in the big tent was one of those seasons to be witnessed only occasionally, even in camp-meetings. During the

time of the meeting, nearly four hundred persons rose on their feet and testified tersely, but clearly, to the grace of God in them—many of them cases of recent renewals, and many more of recent conversion. The sermons of the day were in harmony with the one idea of ‘holiness,’ but had little of the technicality and dogmatic separateness which has sometimes been charged upon these good brethren. The style of preaching throughout has been purely expository and eminently practical. Rev. J. S. Inskip occupied the pulpit in the tent in the morning, while at the stand, in spite of the rain, a mass-meeting for prayer and praise was improvised. At the same hour, various services were conducted in the tents.

“Rev. Alfred Cookman preached in the afternoon to one of the largest and most attentive audiences that a camp-meeting ever saw.

“But to speak of preaching gives but little idea of the great work of salvation which spread like a sheet of flame through all the ground. In the tents, at the street corners, by the wayside, every where, the great work of personal labor for the conversion of sinners and the sanctification of believers went on. It seemed a verification of the promise, ‘It shall come to pass in the last days, saith the Lord, I will pour out my Spirit upon your sons and upon your daughters, and they shall prophesy,’ etc., might be met every where.

“There a lady steps out of the door of her tent, and enchains the passers-by with the story of the cross; a moment later, and precious souls are bowing near her, and asking her to pray for them. In that tent are a group of ladies, whose song and fervent speech bring the prayerless and careless to the feet of Jesus; while for hours, at the fountain in the principal square, an improvised ‘altar’ is crowded with ‘seeking souls.’ The meeting is led chiefly by the zealous missionary of the Water Street movement and Pastor Hedstrom. Suffice it to say that God’s great work of soul-saving is mightily displayed; and whatever ‘one idea’ may be meant, it has grown into a most comprehensive idea of becoming all things to all men, that men may be saved.”

The special correspondent of *The Troy Daily Times*, in a letter of July 8th, claimed there were 10,000 people on the ground on the Sabbath. Describing Mr. Cookman’s sermon, he wrote:

“At two P.M. Rev. A. Cookman, of the Newark Conference, preached from Philippians, third chapter, fourteenth verse—‘I press toward the mark of the prize of my high calling.’ The speaker claimed that St. Paul was a man of one idea, but that idea was complete in itself. If he made tents, that was but a part of his religion. His preaching was tributary to his idea of

holy living. He defined the mark of the prize as the Bible standard of Christian excellence, and spoke of the evil of a wrong standard. He spoke beautifully of the prize itself in the final glorification of soul and body in the likeness of Christ. It is hard to do justice to the discourse, which, with the happy manner of its delivery, made a deep impression."

A person who was present at the love-feast referred to, noted at the time the experience of Mr. Cookman on the occasion. It was in substance as follows:

"When you were singing of the cross a few minutes since, I thought that I had drawn a circle around the cross, and \* \* \* Jesus has lifted me up from the foot of the cross, and has given me a home in His heart. I am dwelling in the supreme centre of bliss."

At the close of the meeting, in company with his sister, Miss Mary B. Cookman, and a few friends, he visited Saratoga Springs. Although extremely exhausted from the labors of the meeting, and feeling almost disabled, yet nothing could exceed his cheerfulness on that day. His spirits bubbled like the perpetual health-giving springs, the waters of which they drank. His companions had never known him more playful—he seemed literally carried away with the delights of nature and the loving companionship of the hour. "With a home in the heart of Jesus, dwelling in the supreme centre of bliss," happiness, natural and spiritual, was to him but the spontaneous effusion of the soul, what the bird's song is to the bird.

Immediately upon his return from Round Lake he took his family to Ocean Grove. It was evident to all that his health was much impaired, but it was hoped that the invigorating sea air and sea bathing, with the quiet of the place, would soon restore him to his usual strength. In all likelihood this would have been the effect, had he remained during the season thus in repose, desisting from the extreme labors and excitements of successive camp-meetings. It was expected by his friends that he would do so—some of them urged its necessity upon him—but, despite all remonstrances, the earnest persuasions of

his wife and kindred, he could not be constrained to rest. The fact is, he did not know how to rest ; it was a lesson he had never needed to learn hitherto, and now it was exceedingly difficult for him to begin it. For ardent, healthful natures, accustomed to action, nothing is harder than enforced passivity—the quiescence which is obliged by incapacity or indispensable to recuperation. The mind, like any material body when under strong headway, can not be suddenly stopped in its course without a violent interruption of the laws of its being. The mind, no more than the material body, will stop of itself. At least it is not natural for it to do so ; and, if stopped, it is only in obedience to outside force. If Mr. Cookman had foreseen the probable consequences of unintermitted work through the summer, it is doubtful if he would have persisted in his purpose—as he had never had cause before to take care of himself, he could not now feel the necessity of it, nor fully appreciate the fears of his friends. The habit of “campaigning” was strong upon him. The second National camp-meeting for the season had begun at Urbana, Ohio ; the brethren of the committee were there, and how could he stay away in ease, while they were at work and needed him ? “Oh, Alfred !” said his wife, in tears—and she knew better than any one else how sick he really was—“you will not go to Urbana ?” “My dear,” he replied, “it is God’s will.” When he arrived at Urbana, the members of the committee were surprised but extremely gratified to see him. Their feelings are well expressed in an extract from a letter of the Rev. L. R. Dunn, of the Newark Conference :

“At our last meeting on the Round Lake camp-ground he was ill, really unable to do any work ; and yet such was his burning zeal for Christ that he could not keep still, but preached, prayed, and labored very far beyond the limit which prudence would have prescribed. Our next engagement was at Urbana, and none of our committee imagined that he would venture to go there. But greatly to our pleasure and our surprise he came on quite early in the meeting, and preached twice during its continuance, with a pa-

thos and power which I imagine he had never exhibited before. Thousands of deathless spirits will never have the impressions produced by those sermons effaced."

The correspondent of *The Methodist*, writing from Urbana, says :

"This meeting commenced on Tuesday, August 1st, in a beautiful grove about two miles from Urbana, Ohio, under the direction of the National Camp-meeting Association. \* \* \*

"The venerable Bishop Morris is present, and receives many attentions, unobtrusive and delicate, from all classes. The Bishop attends all the services, even those held by Mrs. Inskip for the benefit of the children, quite a number of whom have professed conversion. It is really affecting to see this patriarch and honored bishop in the Church sitting in company with the lambs of the flock, and to hear his voice mingling with theirs in Sunday-school hymns and choruses.

"Besides the regular Sunday services, which were held in the quadrangle, and at which the congregations were immense, it was found necessary to have preaching at the tabernacle both morning and afternoon.

"The Sunday-morning National love-feast was conducted by Alfred Cookman, and was a season of tremendous power. In the course of two hours four hundred and fifty persons spoke. To the roll-call of the states, responses were made from Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Michigan, California, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Tennessee. This may well be called a 'National' camp-meeting. To the call of denominations, answers were given by representatives of the Baptist, Presbyterian, Quaker, African Zion, and other churches.

"At the close of every service those who desire to enter into full salvation are urged and entreated to come to the fountain of cleansing. The most genial feeling prevails all over the ground, and the members of the committee are as social and brotherly toward all their fellow-ministers as their arduous duties will permit them to be. There is no 'exclusiveness' whatever—no standing apart with them; all the while rather a desire to have their brethren 'come in and share the feast.' This remark may be the more valuable to many, because the writer of this paper is known to be identified with the brethren no further nor more intimately than in the common belief of the Wesleyan doctrine, and in a common Methodist brotherhood."

Mr. Cookman's impressions were given in two letters to his wife—the last he ever wrote her.

To his wife :

“URBANA CAMP-GROUND, Friday afternoon, 1871.

“I hasten to redeem my promise, and acquaint you with our safe arrival at our destination. We left Philadelphia yesterday in the 12.40 train, and without accident or detention proceeded on our journey. It was a considerable tax ; but the Lord strengthened me, for He knew that my motive to do His will was very pure. I rested rather than slept in my berth ; enjoyed my supper at Altoona and my breakfast at Columbus. Arriving here, a most cordial welcome awaited me. The K.'s, H.'s, etc., are delighted to see their Methodist preacher cousin. A number are here from Philadelphia. The committee are rather feeble-handed. Wells has gone home. Inskip is better, but is obliged to use great care ; he really needs rest. Gray is on the sick-list, so that it is well that I came with *my superabundance of physical power to supply deficiencies*. The weather here has been very showery, interrupting the services in the open air. Gray, Wells, Dunn, and Gillett have preached. There is a great deal of indifference, not to say antagonism, in the minds of many of the preachers and people. The meeting is not as large as many thought it would be—something less than three hundred tents. Our trust, however, is in the Lord who made heaven and earth, and we feel confident of victory. I am meeting friends on every side, who express great pleasure in seeing me under these circumstances. I am not any worse for my long travel ; feel a little oppressed with the heat. Rebecca and her friend are nicely situated in a snug little tent, and will take good care of me. Be careful of yourselves. Make that cottage before I return ‘a thing of beauty and a joy forever.’ Let me hear from you very often. Kisses for my dear children ; love for my many friends.”

To his wife :

“URBANA CAMP-GROUND, Saturday afternoon, August, 1871.

“Our meeting progresses with constantly developing interest. Every service is a signal success, and it looks now like a sweeping victory. This afternoon I preached to a large and most attentive congregation from the text, ‘Be ye holy.’ God graciously strengthened and helped me, and my friends say I never had a better time. Since the sermon I am a little prostrated, and my legs stiffen up ; but I am getting along gloriously. Sincerely, I have not been as well for five weeks. Last night I slept on a lounge in uncle John K.'s cottage, and put in a night of refreshing sleep. Our Ohio relatives are as kind as they can be. Rebecca watches over and provides



for me with the attention and love of a dear sister. The table at which we board is luxurious—never knew any thing at camp-meeting to approach it in excellence—tastefully spread, admirably served, and then such a variety of food. To-day for dinner, roast chicken, chicken pot-pie, beef, lamb, ham, every kind of vegetables, corn, tomatoes, cabbage, beans, etc., etc., and then very nice pie and watermelon for dessert.

“To-morrow will be the Sabbath. I conduct the love-feast in the morning, Brother Inskip at ten, McDonald in the afternoon, and Dunn at night. There will probably be twenty thousand people on the ground. My own soul is being enriched. I want to bring home a double portion of the Spirit, and so be furnished for a blessed and successful campaign this autumn. There has been a good deal of rain here during the last few days. This tempers the atmosphere and keeps down the dust. And now I must close my note. The forces are gathering for a night battle. Oh, for salvation in floods! I will not probably get back home before Saturday night. And now good-bye. The Lord bless and watch over you. Kisses for my children, love for my friends, and believe me your devoted husband.”

The indifference and antagonism in the minds of many of the preachers, if it existed, fast disappeared. Long before the meeting concluded it had been dissipated as mists before the sun. No man's influence contributed more to this than that of Alfred Cookman. While his associates in the committee and in labor won good opinions on all sides, there seemed a hallowed power about him which drew like a magnet all hearts to him. Not only his sermons, but his most casual utterances were listened to as from an oracle. He could have no time to himself. His instructions were privately sought by the intellectual and the wealthy as well as by the untutored and poor; indeed, with many his very presence was coveted as imparting a sanctity—his least look of recognition was regarded a benediction. The whole influence of the man was the expressed sweetness of a nature which had long since been thoroughly imbued with divine unction. The wisest counsels, the most apt illustrations, the most sympathetic expressions, explaining the way of holiness to the inquiring mind, or infusing courage into those who were timid, fell from his lips as honey-dew from

the leaves of the trees. As the people, both ministers and laymen, gathered about him, eager to catch every word, and wondered at the strange wisdom and unwonted spell of his talk, they little thought that he was talking not only from his heart, but was *talking away his heart*. The last and best of Alfred Cookman was condensing itself into sentences to live and grow in men's minds forever.

A prominent minister tells us: "I afterward recalled with great tenderness the conversations I had with Rev. Alfred Cookman, and the precious soul-rest I realized when I ventured my all on the solid rock of eternal truth. The idea that I was saved, not for years or months or days to come, but this moment and the next, by trusting in and looking to Jesus, relieved my mind from a load of apprehension about the future." On the last evening of the meeting, as very many of the hundreds on the ground were marching around the inclosure led by some of the National Committee, a lady, who was prejudiced against the custom, said she must join them, if it was but to shake Mr. Cookman by the hand once more, and bid him good-bye.

I quote again from the correspondence of *The Methodist* to show how completely the indifference and antagonism of the ministers gave way:

"It is impossible to tell how many have entered into 'the rest of faith.' On one occasion I counted forty persons at the altar during the morning (eight o'clock) meeting. This was soon after the invitation was given. Not less than as many more were down before the meeting was closed. I noticed doctors of divinity, professors in literary institutions, officers of the General Conference, men of wealth, position, and power, at the altar, and in deep earnest about this matter. \* \* \* Not the least interesting meeting is that held every day by Mr. Battershall, a layman of New York, for business men. It is very largely attended. Meetings for the Ohio Conference and the Cincinnati Conference preachers are daily held; also for class-leaders and Sunday-school teachers; also for women—this is conducted by Mrs. Inskip. I learned that the preachers of the Cincinnati Conference, at one

of their meetings, unanimously resolved to bury all differences, and go home and preach a full and present salvation. Some forty were at this meeting, which comprised some of the ablest and best men in the Conference."

In addition to what has been already said of Mr. Cookman's preaching at this meeting, I give an account of it which appeared in one of the Cincinnati papers shortly afterward :

"At ten o'clock the clang of the bell called the congregation to Church Square, where Rev. Alfred Cookman delivered another of those grand sermons that are rapidly placing him in the front rank of the eloquent and effective pulpit orators of the Methodist Church. His text was read from Ephesians v., 18—'Be ye filled with the Spirit.' The preacher said, by way of introducing his subject, that on an occasion like this it would be superfluous to employ time to insist on the personality or individuality of the Holy Ghost, the Third Person of the Trinity. Unanimous assent to that doctrine may be taken for granted. He then referred briefly to the various offices of the Spirit, as contradistinguished from those of other persons of the Trinity, and quoted from various inspired writers to establish the fact that the promise of the Spirit's presence was one of the understood guarantees given to man in the Scriptures. When the Holy Spirit comes to man it is not to speak of Himself, but to take of the things of Christ and show them unto us. The Spirit does not reveal Himself, but reveals the personality and presence of Christ. This explains the prominence given to Christ in all effective preaching of the Gospel. I detract not an iota from the merits of Christ. I am not surprised to hear you sing, 'Oh, how I love Jesus;' but we must not fail to recognize that it is our glorious privilege and duty to speak of, pray to, live in, have fellowship with, be filled by the Holy Spirit.

"The effects of being filled with the Holy Spirit are developed in the consciousness, character, and life of man. Its effects on man's consciousness are : First, the soul will be hallowed in thought, feeling, and motive. Second, the soul will have a deep, full, and abiding experience of love—a valuable and beautiful fount of the very nature of the Spirit himself. Third, the soul will have the realization of real rest. Antagonisms will be allayed; antagonists transformed into servitors. The soul where the Spirit makes His home will be made a perfect home.

"In character, religion aims to produce perfection. Character in its highest form is not the product of merely human agencies, and a character developed by the Spirit's operation will involve : First, *holiness*; freedom from littleness, lowness, or vileness. Second, *gentleness*; no agent is comparable

with the Spirit in this matter of gentleness, and gentleness makes man great. Third, *wisdom*; this is pronounced in God's Word; God's children shall be the happiest, best, and wisest on His footstool. In personal life: first, a soul filled with the Spirit supplies the impulses of an earnest, useful, and valuable life; second, it will supply not only the motive power, but the ability to accomplish; third, it associates with the words and labors of life the unction of the Holy One.

"The speaker discussed at some length the question, What is unction? He said: 'It is that subtle, intangible, irresistible influence of the Holy Spirit that seals instruction upon the hearts to which it is given. It is not the eloquent men of this world, the orators of great occasions, whose words linger longest in their influence upon the hearts of men. The unction may oftentimes be rather in the utterances of a humble disciple than in the delivery of a powerful sermon. For this I am more concerned than for any thing else.' \* \* \*

"His clear, ringing voice penetrated to the remotest bounds of the great square, and under the influence of his eloquence men stood motionless as statues. The hour of twelve came, and the gongs and dinner-bells around the inclosure began an interruptive clangor. But no person in that congregation could have been tempted away by an epicurean feast. In that moment there was food for the moral and religious nature being dispensed with all the liberality of eloquence, and the wants of physical nature were unheeded in these appeals. An imperfect report would utterly mar the beauty of the speaker's utterances, and a perfect report would fail to convey any idea of the glowing eloquence of his style, and the telling effect of his pathetic appeals to men and women to 'be filled with the Holy Spirit.' Your types could print the mere words, but no pen-power that I know of can clothe them with the garb of oratory in which they trooped forth from the speaker's lips, to take by storm the stubborn citadels of men's hearts and minds."

## CHAPTER XXIV.

### THE LAST CAMP-MEETINGS.—FAILING HEALTH.—THE LAST SERMON.

WITH the camp-meeting at Urbana, Mr. Cookman's public services with the National Committee ceased. Some of the committee, during the same season, moved farther westward, and held meetings in a large tent at Topeka, Kansas, Salt Lake City, and in different parts of California; but he was not able, for want of time and strength, to accompany them.

The effective work of the committee at Salt Lake was thus graphically described in *The Methodist* by the Rev. T. De Witt Talmage :

#### "THE BIG TENT.

"We found the track of the Methodist tent all the way across the continent. Mormonism never received such a shot as when, with Brigham Young and his elders present in the tent, the party of wide-awake Methodist ministers preached righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come in great Salt Lake City. The effect of those few days of faithful talking will never be forgotten. Hardly a service is held in the Mormon Tabernacle that an effort is not made to combat the sermons of the itinerants. On the two occasions when we were present in the Tabernacle, all the speakers felt called upon to answer the Big Tent. It was evident that the monster of sin had been speared, and the wound rankled. We have never seen the brethren of that religious storming-party, but we hail them through these columns for the glorious work they have accomplished in Salt Lake City. It was the first gleam of light that some of the bondmen of the great religious despotism have seen for many a year. If the Methodists had stayed a few days longer, and gone around the walls of that Jericho, blowing the 'rams' horns,' I do not know but that the brazen superstition might have fallen in thunder and wreck.

"Might not the Christian Church of all denominations learn a lesson from this religious crusade? Our great ammunition-wagons are so clumsy and

our big guns so unwieldy that the enemy often has us at disadvantage. I think a squad of flying artillery perhaps might go forth and surround the foe. We want more men in the religious world with the bold dash that Kilpatrick and Stonewall Jackson had in the military. We glorify the policy of 'fighting it out on one line, if it takes all summer,' but forget what a little Christian stratagem did when Gideon's three hundred men flung the pitchers and hoisted the lamps !"

Mr. Cookman sought the cottage at Ocean Grove—but not to rest. This seemed quite impossible ; for the camp-meeting there was in progress, and, being pressed to preach, he could not say "No." He tried hard to obtain a substitute, even after he had consented to preach. The burden of the service, already great, was increased by the unexpected appearance of the President of the United States in the audience. The President had come down from his cottage at Long Branch to participate in the worship.

"Among the listeners, while Rev. A. Cookman was preaching this morning, was General Grant, President of the United States, and his lady-like and pleasant-faced wife. They walked in and took their seats together on one of the rough boards. The threatening aspect of the weather, and a premonitory sprinkle of rain, admonished our distinguished friends to seek the shelter of their carriage before the services were formally concluded. This saved the President from such a hearty hand-shaking as he has rarely been subject to. With many of the ministers and prominent laymen present he is on terms of intimacy, and much regret was felt that he could not remain all day in the atmosphere of prayer and praise. Brother Howland extended to him a cordial invitation to partake of a camp-meeting dinner at his spacious tables, and, had he stayed longer, he should have been made to feel perfectly at home among the tents, some of which did service in the armies he once commanded on the James River.

"Brother Cookman held all hearts by the spell of his eloquence during the presidential visit, and finished his discourse by a profoundly solemn season of prayer."\*

It was the last day of the meeting that he preached. The effort had greatly exhausted his strength, but far into the last

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\* Correspondence of *The Methodist Home Journal*.

night he protracted his labors—singing, praying, talking, exhorting—until his wife, extremely anxious for his welfare, urged him to desist and retire. “Oh, my dear,” said he, “it is blessed! it is blessed!” Thus standing, shaking hands with all, and singing, “Oh, bliss of the purified!” he remained while one was ready to remain and rejoice with him.

This was not enough: whether possessed of a presentiment or not that his camp-meeting career would be soon ended, a restless longing seemed to fill him for still another effort on his chosen field. The fire which had constrained the seraphic Isaiah to cry, “For Zion’s sake will I not rest, and for Jerusalem’s sake will I not hold my peace, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth,” had touched his lips, and off he hastened to Martha’s Vineyard, and there we hear of him as preaching with overwhelming effect to the vast and promiscuous assemblage which had gathered at that favorite spot:

“The preaching was unusually spiritual. Rev. Drs. Woodruff, Pierce, Tiffany, and Payne, the brothers Alfred and John Cookman, declared the truth in much assurance, and with great success. The sermon of Rev. Alfred Cookman, on ‘Be filled with the Spirit,’ was mightily effective.”\*

Another correspondent wrote:

“Rev. A. Cookman, through God, did a mighty work for the cause of holiness. My impression is, if we, as a people, will follow the lead of the Holy Spirit, the Great Head of the Church will make our camp-meetings a wonderful means ‘for spreading scriptural holiness over these lands.’”†

The sermon here referred to, which was substantially the same as that preached at Urbana, on the text, “Be filled with the Spirit,” was the last preached by Mr. Cookman at a camp-meeting. He was much agitated as to what he should preach, and, after earnest questioning and prayer, felt impressed to take this subject. What could so appropriately have been his last theme to the general Church, represented as it was in all

\* *The Methodist*.

† *The Methodist Home Journal*.

its branches on that occasion, as this one great theme of his life. Lifted up—to what eye-witnesses have declared was an illumination of person and mind—there, on the remotest coast of New England, he delivered a message to the Church, which the winds of heaven have been wafting northward, westward, and southward, till believers of every section must catch the wondrous sound, “Be filled with the Spirit.” There is no legacy which a truly devoted minister of the Lord Jesus Christ could so fittingly leave to all Christians, whom he loved as he loved his life, as the exhortation and the prayer for them “to be filled with the Spirit.” In this sentiment he felt was “completed and compacted” the one great want of the Christian Church.

Mr. Cookman returned from Martha's Vineyard, spent two weeks at Ocean Grove, and then brought his family home, and early in September was at the regular work of his charge. The great spiritual preparation which he had earnestly desired for his fall and winter work had evidently been granted; his mind began promptly to unfold plans of increasing usefulness, and in all the public and social services there was an enlarged attendance and a manifest deepening of religious fervor. The special service for the promotion of holiness, not hitherto appointed, was now established, and from it the happiest results were anticipated.\*

There was, however, one drawback to the pastor's plans and expectations—a disturbing element had thrust itself forward and demanded recognition—a strange element, which heretofore had never entered into his reckonings, beset him; his health, always before so firm and reliable, was now weak and

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\* A card, neatly printed, was issued and circulated with these words: The “Higher Christian Life. A meeting for all interested, irrespective of denominational connections, is held every Friday evening, in the Chapel of Central M. E. Church, Market Street, near Mulberry. Please preserve this card as a remembrancer.”



treacherous. His physical constitution had lost its elasticity; accustomed hitherto to recover its vigor immediately with the suspension of hard work, it now failed to show signs of recuperation. The bow, strung too long, had lost its spring, and, when the string was loosed, there was no rebound. Alfred Cookman had gone too far for his strength—this last summer's campaign had finished what former summers' work had begun and hastened—the premature decay of his bodily powers.

It is impossible, as I now enter the shadows which begin to gather about our friend, whom I have thus followed step by step until this period of his life, to dismiss wholly from sight a question which, despite the sanctity of his character, the usefulness of his career, and the triumph of his death, obtrudes itself upon me: Can his uniform course of attending and working at successive camp-meetings during the summer seasons be wholly commended? The difficulty of seeing any mistake in a life so full of good fruits is very great; and yet, when the loss to the Church and to the world which the death of such a man entails is weighed, those who feel it most deeply may be forgiven if they suggest conditions which, humanly considered, may have prevented it.

“Oh, sir! the good die first,  
And they whose hearts are dry as summer dust  
Burn to the socket,”

is an utterance which gratifies a sort of vengeful feeling when we see the good stricken down in their prime and the wicked living to old age; but it is not such as Christianity warrants. The earth needs the good. The cause of God needs the wisdom of age as well as the zeal of youth. Life is the order of God, and, except where it can be clearly pointed out as a duty, it is not to be unduly exposed. Times may come, calls may arise which demand its jeopardy and even its sacrifice as the price of conscience, liberty, humanity; but ordinarily God is most glorified when, by a due observance of the laws of

health, it is prolonged and preserved in cumulative perfection to advanced years.

There is no reason why a holy man should not increase in holiness and usefulness until old age, and present, though in a different aspect, quite as beautiful an exemplification of the force of religion in the aged as in the young. This is a view of the subject quite necessary to be looked at, especially by youth. There is something peculiarly fascinating to ardent natures in the halo which invests a rapid, fiery course and an early triumphant death ; but to other minds there is something repellent, as implying a logical connection between a life of the highest devotion and a premature death. A devout man may conscientiously refuse incessant, overtasking labor, and insist upon the hours and days of relaxation, for the preservation of his health, in order that he may thus offer to God a larger and more effective service. St. Paul had a desire to depart and be with Christ, which he felt to be far better for himself, because he would thus sooner be free from suffering, and be present with the Lord ; but he yielded to the motive of usefulness to the Church as a reason sufficiently strong to control his personal preference, and consented to remain in the body.

The desire for the greatest usefulness may lead one man to such intensity of action as to preclude intermission of labor, under the impression that time thus spent is lost ; while the same desire may lead another to the strict observance of vacation, as more economical of time, because regarded as indispensable to the maintenance of an equable and steady strength. One man's motto is, "Labor here, rest hereafter ;" another's motto is, "Some rest and more labor." Both may be equally religious, be alike governed by the glory of God ; but certainly if the human race, before its universal death and resurrection, is to possess the earth, if in humanity as now constituted, only saved from sin and immorality, God is to be glorified in what is ordinarily expected as the millennium, then conservation of

physical health and the prolongation of human life must be considered one of the first duties of practical religion. God's greatest glory will be revealed in the highest perfection of the threefold man—soul, body, and spirit.

A doubt can not be raised as to the thorough conscientiousness of Mr. Cookman, nor, with the notions of individual liberty, which must be conceded in reference to personal conduct, especially in view of the good sense, and the extreme care with which he canvassed all questions of religion and morals, both for himself and others, is it easy to say that *he* should have acted differently in the use of his time and energies than he did. While he was in the fullness of his vigor, fame, and usefulness, his friends used to remonstrate with him against devoting his vacations in the heats of summer to the same mental and bodily work to which he was accustomed all the year round. He thought the change of scene and place would be sufficient to prevent damage to his health. But the trouble was that, while change of scene did bring a degree of relaxation, the mind continued, only in an intenser degree, to be excited in the same direction as in the ordinary work of the pastoral charge. If, after the exhaustion of the camp-meetings, he could have had freedom from care for a month each year, his labors could have been continued, in all likelihood, for many years, for his physical resources were truly remarkable; but it was not possible for a man, even of his bodily powers, to go directly from the cares of a charge to the herculean work of five or six camp-meetings every season, and to return immediately to the exacting duties of the pastorate, without detriment to his health, and probable premature decay of his vital force. He did not realize his danger in the beginning, and with each additional year his zeal became so absorbing as to consume him, so that I believe his course was finally one of deliberate choice, taken with his eyes fully open to the worst consequences.

I can not approve his election on general principles. I may

accept it as that which God's Spirit pointed out to him as his proper path ; and, in accepting it, I must be carried away with admiration for so sublime an embodiment of that ancient, heroic, self-sacrificing devotion which inspired the apostles and confessors of the primitive ages, and which still in these modern times impels scores and hundreds of believers to brave the pestilence, the savage, and the deep for the Cross of Christ. Surely no one can turn away from the career of this saint of God, after contemplating his self-sacrificing zeal for the salvation of his fellow-men, and say "the age of heroes is past."

After all, it may be that one lesson, in addition to many others, which divine Providence meant to teach in the history of His servant, is the greater moral beauty, the richer blessedness of a zeal which consumes, in contradistinction to the dwarfed religiousness which the thought of self and the love of ease engender—low principles which, alas! are too prevalent in our day. Sometimes extremes can only be met by extremes ; a low stoop is necessary to reach a deep depression—so Alfred Cookman may have been a sacrifice to an excessive zeal, whose force, all the greater by its contrast, shall kindle the breasts of others, and arouse them from a too utilitarian and cold policy for the work of saving a selfish world.

But the day is passing—the sun nears the west—the shadows are lengthening—enough of my reflections. We will hear more from him. Some one remarked to him during his last illness, "Perhaps you have worked too hard, and have not been sufficiently careful of your health." "Well," he replied, "I do not know—I have enjoyed my work ; I have not been conscious of overtaxing myself. I had but one life to live here, and it was for the glory of Jesus ; and He has abundantly recompensed me."

The following letters make but little mention of his health, and are full of gentle love and genuine goodness.

To Mrs. Lewis, of Columbus, Ohio :

“NEWARK, N. J., September 7, 1871.

“We received most thankfully and joyfully your welcome letter. There are no epistolary missives that come to our home that are more affectionately hailed than your own. You would excuse us from the necessity of replying ; but no ! my Christian lady, you must not just yet exclude us from the joy of corresponding with one of our dearest earthly friends, for Mrs. C. and I both feel that in our large circle there is no heart truer, kinder, or more faithful than your own. Twelve years of blessed intimacy and growing affection will not heed the suggestion of your modest and appreciative kindness. Thoughts are not sufficient ; we must tell you in your Western home that ‘mountains rise to separate us in vain.’ God gave you to us—one of His special gifts—and you know that His blessings are not only peculiarly satisfying, but they become richer and sweeter and better the longer they are retained.

“I can not give you any idea how delighted I was to meet you at Urbana. I thought constantly of Homer, and felt if he could have brightened our circle with his brotherly face, and then we could have gone all together into the ocean of divine fullness, this would have completed our joy. The last of our National camp-meetings was for me the most glorious. How good the Heavenly Father was to me, His humble legate ! What access He gave me to the hearts of the people ! What comfort in the proclamation of His truth ! I am persuaded that God specially honored your faith on Tuesday morning, and in response to your intercessions vouchsafed the sending of the Holy One. It was one of the most hallowed and blessed services with which I have ever been identified ; and, indeed, all through it was the Divinity ! the Divinity !! Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. I rejoice to hear of your Friday-afternoon meeting. This will be a power and a blessing. The little flame kindled at the Capitol will spread and meet other flames burning in different localities, until Ohio shall blaze with the glory of full salvation. Our sojourn at the sea-side was both delightful and profitable. The ocean breezes invigorated me physically. Our dear Brother Benjamin Adams was tented just alongside of our cottage, and in his society I spent some of my happiest moments. The children think that Ocean Grove is next to heaven. Your splendid boy returned home more splendid than ever. He is still the idol of our household. His torment at present is the mosquitoes ! They will bite him, and I do not wonder—if I was one I should insist on a little piece myself. When night comes, they seem to pass by our bed, and they concentrate on the crib—illustrating that even mosquitoes know what is good.

"Now I have filled my pages, and said only a tithe of what I wanted to write. Give love to your sister. Write soon and often to your Christian brother."

To Mr. and Mrs. Moore, of Wilmington, Del. :

"NEWARK, N. J., September 9, 1871.

"I add a brief postscript to my wife's letter, to say that you are both very dear to my heart, and your kind attentions, unremitted confidence, and tender love have made the deepest impression upon my better nature, and I think of you as among the most precious of my Heavenly Father's blessings. Sister Emily has for so many years vindicated her faithful friendship, that this is a settled matter ; and she takes her place, not among the volunteers, but with the *tried* and *trusted* veterans. Brother M. I have not known quite so long, but three years have done more for him than thirty for some others. No one could have been truer or warmer or more faithful, and he has a place just alongside of his devoted wife—and that is a very special place.

"Now this note, instead of being a little budget of news, is a *declaration of love* ; and, indeed, I joy to tell you both how, despite separation, my heart clings to you as fondly as when I stood in the relation of a cherished pastor.

"Love is a blessed sunshine on life's way, and, thank God, we may make sunshine for others while we bask in its invigorating beams ourselves.

"My health is very much better than it has been, so that I do my regular work as formerly. Yesterday, Sabbath, I preached twice and delivered a missionary address. Next Friday evening we begin a meeting for the promotion of Christian holiness. How I could desire your co-operation in this effort to exalt Jesus and help fellow-disciples. God bless you both. Come and see us ! The warmest welcome awaits you at No. 21 Clinton Street."

To Mrs. Edward Moore, of Wilmington, Del. :

"NEWARK, N. J., October 23, 1871.

"You can not imagine how much pleasure your letter gave us. It was read and re-read, and then read over again. Any word from Wilmington is specially welcome. We have many blessed memories of our last pastorate ; indeed, I do not know of any place to which our feelings turn more tenderly than your neat, quiet, orderly, and pleasant little city.

"Every thing is pleasant and promising in our Newark pastorate. Our Friday-evening meeting for the promotion of holiness is already a blessed success—largely attended, and with the needed unction of the Holy One. The friends seem to have a revival in their faith, and we are confidently waiting for *showers* of blessing. Our best love to all the dear friends of Grace Church, especially to the little circle that associate themselves on

Wednesday afternoon and evening. My word to them you will find in First Thessalonians, third chapter, eighth to thirteenth verses. Write frequently, if you can, and give us all the items of Wilmington life."

To Mr. W. W. Cookman, of Philadelphia :

"NEWARK, N. J., October 11, 1871.

"I can not tell you how grateful and gratifying was your fraternal letter. For some time past I have had it upon my mind to use my pen in re-opening our correspondence. Affectionate brothers, alive to each other's interests, there ought certainly to be a more frequent interchange of thoughts and feelings. Greatly desiring and fully intending this, I have allowed bodily indisposition, with the pressure of immediate duties, to influence me, and this pleasant exercise has been postponed. You have anticipated me in this matter. I thank you most tenderly for your brotherly consideration, and I promise to be more thoughtful and faithful in the future.

"You refer to my recent indisposition. This has been a new chapter in my experience. Blessed, as you know, with robust health scarcely ever interrupted, it was a trial to feel or acknowledge myself an invalid. During the summer campaign in the forests, *to ride in the ambulance* and hear the noise of the battle or the shouts of the victors, when my accustomed place was 'at the front,' was a new experience, and called for grace, special grace. My covenant-keeping Lord, however, has been fulfilling his gracious promises. He has not left or forsaken me. He has supplied all my need, and gives me occasion daily for thanksgiving and praise. My trouble was an intermittent fever, a torpid liver, some kidney difficulty, and a prostration of my nervous system. Thanks to a gracious Providence, I am very much better—am able to preach twice every Sabbath, and supervise the general interests of my charge. Weakness in my knees and ankles, making locomotion sometimes a painful effort, is my chief ailment now. Frosty weather will probably relieve this and invigorate my nervous energies. Dr. Nelson, of New York, wants me to take a year's rest, and go to Europe and the East. As I am situated, however, this seems to me to be impracticable. You have, of course, heard of John's engagement. \* \* \* This I regard as the last and best installment of heaven's love for our younger brother. We are usually well at our Newark home. Annie joins me in tenderest love to yourself and Mary. Kisses for your boys from their uncle, aunt, and cousins. Come and visit us when you can. A most cordial welcome awaits you or any of yours."

The last article which came from Mr. Cookman's hand for publication, was a preface, written at the request of Mr. W. S.

Hillis of Wilmington, Delaware, for a little tract containing the account of Dr. Coan's labors in the island of Hilo. The tract was afterward published. The article was conveyed in a letter to Mr. Hillis :

"NEWARK, N. J., October 19, 1871.

"I ought perhaps to take a season of rest, but in my relations, both family and ecclesiastical, this seems impracticable. I am the child of the best of fathers, and He is pledged to the supervision of all my interests. What may be His design in my present condition, I can not know. Lying quietly and lovingly and confidently in His blessed embrace, I look up and say, 'Good is the will of the Lord.' I want to be entirely willing to do or not to do."

Mr. Cookman continued to fulfill all his ministerial duties during the weeks of September and October. But it was evident to his family and friends that his bodily strength was not adequate to the tasks he was performing. It was the opinion of medical men that his health was seriously impaired and needed absolute rest, and he was advised to take a tour to Europe. The way did not appear to be open, and so he toiled on—hoping, though not without alternations of fear, that with the cool frosts of autumn his strength would return. He would at this time, after being out through the day making pastoral calls, come home and throw himself on the sofa utterly exhausted, and say, "Sometimes I think my work is nearly done, and when I take my bed, it may be my last sickness." Then again he would rally, and talk of his plans for the future. He still moved quite freely among his ministerial brethren. As late as the first of October he was over to New York in attendance upon the Preachers' meeting, interchanging greetings and showing all his wonted buoyancy of feeling. His hearty grasp and glowing expressions on that occasion can not soon be forgotten.

While instant in labor in his own charge, he was ever ready, sick as he was, to render outside help to the ministers of neighboring cities.



The Rev. L. R. Dunn writes :

"After the summer campaign was over, he resumed his work with great hopefulness. Having been a pastor for five years of the same Church, and knowing intimately its official boards and its entire membership, I can safely say that never before in all their history were they laboring with greater unanimity, with loftier inspirations, and with more assured promise and hope for their future enlargement and prosperity. Every movement he made, every word he spoke, every meeting he held, and every sermon he preached seemed to distill a fragrance not only in his own Church, but as far as he was known through all the churches and all the community. \* \* \*

"As an illustration of this, an intelligent young man, who had been brought to Christ during my ministry in the Central Church, although afterward connected with another of our churches in the city, was conversing with me after his death about his goodness and purity. So impressed did he seem to be that I asked him if he had often heard him preach? 'No,' said he, 'I have never heard him preach, *but I have watched him as he was walking along the street.*' So that his very shadow as he walked left its impress on the mind and heart of that young man. \* \* \* I had arranged to have a few days of extra services in my charge, and he had promised to spend a day with me. He came in during the afternoon meeting, and talked very sweetly and impressively to all present of his experience of full salvation. After service he went to my house with one of our dear mutual friends, and remained until the evening service. When leaving the house he said to me, 'Let me take your arm; since my sickness this last summer I have been a little lame, and my limbs sometimes seem to give way.' Little did I think then, as he walked and talked of Jesus and His love, that he was so near to his heavenly home. \* \* \* He preached with great power on 'Put ye on the Lord Jesus,' and his sermon seemed to produce a deep impression."

Nothing could exceed the spiritual mindedness of Mr. Cookman through these weeks. He was full of plans for life, but a deep under-current of feeling bore all his thoughts heavenward. He almost literally lived and moved in God. His spirit was becoming so filled with the atmosphere of the skies, that its tendency was upward, and, imperceptibly to himself and his friends, he was so ready for the ascent that it was with difficulty he could be held to earth. Walking out one evening with his wife, as he looked up to the heavens he said, "Those are my

Father's stars"—"That is my Father's moon." A short time before he was taken sick they visited a house where they saw an oil-painting of a saint just entering heaven; lingering by it, he said, "How I covet her—she is almost within the gate;" and then requested his wife to sing—

"Oh, the city! oh, the glory!  
Far beyond the rapturous story  
Of the ages old and hoary—  
Oh! 'tis heaven at last!"

He gazed in transport as he seemed to fancy her just entering the heavenly city.

The month of October, with its keen, crisp breath, was fast speeding away, without reviving the flagging steps of the weary invalid. He grew perceptibly weaker. While in attendance upon the National Committee in New York, about the middle of the month, he made a call at his brother's house in West Thirty-fourth Street. Though feeble, he was very bright and cheerful. His whole conversation was about Jesus and his cause. That visit proved the last. Two days before his final illness he attended a love-feast at the Halsey Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Newark. His ankles were then very weak, but such was his devotion to the Master's work that he could not refuse to go. At the close of the meeting he gave his experience from the commencement of his religious life, dwelling especially upon the holy influence and example of his mother. Returning home, two of his warm friends walked on each side of him to support his feeble steps. He said to them, "I know it is not popular to hold up the doctrine of holiness, but I thought I would do my whole duty then; I feel this may be my last opportunity."

On Sunday, the 22d of October, he performed his last public services. He had said many times when in health, "I would like to die, if it is God's will, with my armor on, and preach by my death as well as by my life." He often spoke of the Rev.

Dudley Tyng, with whom he was intimately associated in Philadelphia, and said, "It was glorious to die as he did, for his dying testimony was yet echoing through the world." He even said he "would prefer to die in the pulpit." His wish, though not literally, was about to be substantially gratified. His work and his life were to end together. His death was to be the most effective sermon of his whole career—a fitting vindication and illustration of the power of the doctrines he had preached and lived—a death which, for its singular spiritual glory, is destined to be spoken of while the annals of Christian saints shall be read, and which for its wondrous force will be quoted and dwelt upon as a divine inspiration while there shall be a Church to cherish the memory of the good, or a trembling believer who shall need cheer amid the stern struggles of life and death.

In the morning he preached from Mark iv., 25, "From him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath"—a very solemn and effective sermon. In the afternoon he visited the Sabbath-school, as was his custom, and shook hands with every teacher and scholar. Toward evening he complained of not feeling well, and Mrs. Cookman was very anxious to get some one to fill his pulpit for the evening service. But he would not consent, saying, "I think I have a message from God for this people; I shall preach from 'the faded leaf.'" As he arose to announce his text, he held in his hand a faded leaf, saying "this is my text, 'We all do fade as a leaf.'" Several persons remarked afterward to his wife that "he looked like one transfigured." A lady said to her husband, "She did not think that Fletcher could have looked more seraphic." As he finished his sermon his feet gave way, and passing from the pulpit he handed the leaf to a friend, saying, "The leaf and the preacher are very much alike—*fading*." He limped home, and when his wife received him in the parlor he was almost distracted with pain. As he was assisted to his chamber he re-

marked to her, "I have preached my own experience to-night, '*Fading as a leaf.*'"

The physician in attendance pronounced the disease *Mialgia*, or acute inflammatory rheumatism, the pain being confined to the ankles and the soles of the feet. There was also a torpid condition of the liver, which added very much to his discomfort. The next few days were accompanied with intense suffering; but he was heard to say "that, while his whole lower nature was quivering with agony, his higher nature triumphed in God." At times he would be so filled with the Spirit as to burst out in the midst of his anguish into expressions of praise and love. I quote again from the Rev. Mr. Dunn: "In attempting to describe his sufferings to me he used the following language: 'If,' said he, 'the bones of my feet were all teeth, and each one had what we call the jumping toothache, it would give you some idea of what I suffer.' After conversation and prayer, when I rose to leave, he grasped my hand, and, looking up so lovingly in my eyes, he said, 'My precious brother, how I love you! I have always felt a special nearness to you ever since I have known you.' But, great as his sufferings were, he seemed then to have no idea he was so near his end, but talked freely of his plans for the future, and his hope of a speedy recovery."

After about one week of almost constant pain, approaching sometimes to convulsions, alleviated only by slight intervals of ease, he became apparently convalescent. When a lull in his sufferings took place he was very bright and cheerful, and he manifested the keenest interest in every thing which occurred around him both beyond and within the house. Every little incident in the outer world was referred to with the liveliest appreciation; while the acts of kindness performed by those in attendance upon him, even of the most trivial kind, were received with the sweetest look of pleasure and gratitude. Always to the question, "How are you?" he would reply, "I think

I am a little better." After rallying from the first paroxysms of suffering, he had his books and paper brought to him, and employed his time as he was able in reading or being read to, and in writing notes to his friends. His Bible was daily by his side; when he was unable to read it, either the children or his wife would read it to him, and he would respond, "There is nothing like the Word of the Lord;" or, "Oh, how precious!" At his request his daughter Annie read to him the sixteenth chapter of the Gospel of St. John—always a favorite chapter with him. She said to him one day as he was suffering with pain in the back of his neck, "Papa, are you not afraid that it will go to your brain?" "No, darling," he answered, "not unless the Lord Jesus would have it." October 29th, one week from the time of his prostration, a meeting being held by the members of his Church to pray especially for his recovery, he dictated for them the following note:

"Mr. Cookman wishes me to say that he appreciates more than he can express the sympathy and love of his dear people. He loved you all very tenderly before his present illness; he feels that he will love you much more in the future. This is a Sabbath of great physical suffering, and yet it is proving, doubtless in answer to your prayers, the most precious of all his life. He says he is Christ's suffering little child; and with every sharp, keen, excruciating pain, he feels that Jesus presses him even more closely to his great heart of love, and lets him realize the power of His divine sympathy and tenderness. He says, 'God bless you all—the kindest, dearest people that any pastor ever served.'"

## CHAPTER XXV.

### THE LAST HOURS.—SWEEPING THROUGH THE GATES.

IT was after reviving from one of the severe paroxysms to which Mr. Cookman was subject, about one week from the first attack, that he had what may be regarded as a remarkable vision. He found himself just inside of heaven. He was first received by his grandfather Cookman, who said, "When you were in England, I took great pleasure in showing you the different places of interest ; now I welcome you to heaven, my grandson, washed in the blood of the Lamb !" He was next received by his father—whose features were as distinct as when he saw him in his boyhood days—he also said, "Welcome, my son, washed in the blood of the Lamb !" Then his brother George took him in his arms, and said, "Welcome, my brother, washed in the blood of the Lamb !" And lastly his son Bruner received him with the same salutation—"Welcome, father, washed in the blood of the Lamb !" Each one of these in turn presented him to the Throne. When he told his wife of what he had seen and heard, he remarked, "That was an abundant entrance." She asked him if it were a dream. He replied, "No, it was between sleeping and waking." Saint Stephen is not the last of God's suffering, dying servants who have seen heaven opened before their entrance into it.

He was often heard to repeat the simple words,

"I'm a poor sinner, and nothing at all,  
Jesus Christ is my all in all."

He now seemed to understand as never before the expression, "Perfect, or purified through suffering." "I have known for

many years what it is to be washed in the blood of the Lamb ; now I understand the full meaning of that verse, 'These are they which came out of *great tribulation*, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.' I used to maintain that the blood was sufficient, but I am coming to know that tribulation brings us to the blood that cleanseth." His mother, who visited him frequently, reminded him that the Saviour suffered in his feet, to which he afterward often referred. "You know the nails pierced His precious feet, and He can sympathize with me in my sufferings. 'In all their afflictions he was afflicted.'" To his son Frank he said, "The effect of this sickness is to draw me closer and closer to the heart of Jesus."

The last letters he wrote will be read and cherished as well-nigh messages from heaven.

To Miss Howland, of Wilmington, Del., now the wife of Rev. John E. Cookman :

"MONDAY, November 6, 1871.

"Do I anticipate? Nay! your tender, loving spirit and my warm fraternal feeling constitute you already a *sister beloved*.

"Your sweet letter came into my sick-room like a love-bird, and its carol of sympathy caused tears of thankfulness to flow down my cheeks.

"This is the third week of my sickness. My physician (a skillful and faithful man) will not allow me to get out of bed, so that I am penning this note (the first I have written) lying on my back, and using my pencil as best I can. For eight or nine days I suffered beyond expression. Sometimes the spasms of pain, affecting my entire nervous system, were almost more than I could bear (a new chapter in my experience), for hitherto I have been wonderfully healthy and strong; and yet, will you believe me, these have been among the best weeks of my life. When the pain was greatest, the precious Jesus would draw me closest to His great heart of love, and whisper in my spiritual ear some of His soothing and inspiring promises.

"I am loving more and more the will of my Father in heaven, for if it brings suffering (which is but for a moment), it brings also an infinite compensation, not only in the sympathy and loving kindness of Jesus, but also in the persuasion that our present afflictions are intended to work in us the

peaceable fruits of righteousness, and to work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

"Of course I have had no painful solicitude respecting the future. To the praise of the divine grace, I humbly testify this was taken away long ago. 'Perfect love casteth out fear.' My faith and hope have come back to cheer me with the assurance that 'all is well.'

"Oh! I have so much to write—but I must forbear.

"I am, thank God, on the upward grade. My feet are still so sore and weak that I could not probably take two steps, and then my system is greatly prostrated by reason of my protracted suffering.

"Tell your precious mother that her most welcome letter of sympathy and sisterly love came to hand this morning. Its expressions of tender affection quite subdued my heart, and made me praise God for such warm, fast, Christian friends. If practicable, I will be glad to breathe for a day or two the sanctified atmosphere of your beautiful home at Hilton.

"Give my truest and best love to your dear father and mother and your venerated grandparents. God bless them, and grant that their golden-wedding may ripen into the *glory*-wedding—and, oh! shall I not sit down with them and you at the marriage-supper of the Lamb? Now I can not write any more. Good-bye, my sweet sister Meta. Continue to pray for me. Yours forever."

To Mrs. Stevens, of Wilmington, Del. :

"NEWARK, N. J., November 6, 1871.

"I am still the prisoner of the Lord—but oh, what an honor! what a privilege! what a joy! Infinite Love is my Keeper, and the Lord's prison-houses are incomparably more desirable than the gorgeous palaces of wickedness.

"This is now the third week of my affliction. Lying on my back, I am grateful to be able to use my *pencil* in communing with the dear friends whose tried affection is cherished among my heart's richest treasures, and the expression of whose sympathy is so soothing and welcome. When our Christian boy was wrested from us, no voice was more tender, no heart more sympathizing than your own. We have not forgotten it—and now that it pleases the best of fathers to afflict your unworthy brother, it is most encouraging and inspiring to know that that same true heart turns to the human in love and to the divine in prayer.

"Precious sister, your prayers have reached the Throne, and the gracious answers have been blessing me both in my body and my soul. Two weeks since I was struck in my own pulpit, just at the close of the evening sermon.



I felt my feet giving way; I limped home, I scarcely know how. Lying down on my bed, the pain rapidly developed, until it was almost more than I could endure. Confined to the ankle and soles of the feet, it was as if that part were full of teeth, and all were quivering at the same moment with violent, jumping toothache. This, of course, made the feet so sore that I could not bear to have them touched. The pulsing pain in the sore feet, continuing day after day, involved my whole nervous system, until in the paroxysms I was almost like one the victim of convulsions. Oh, the long, weary nights!—the throbbing pain beating the seconds of hours that seemed like little ages.

“Since Tuesday last I have had measurable relief, though prostrated beyond expression in my general system. Owing to the soreness of my feet, and the condition of my liver and other organs, the doctor insists on my remaining in bed a few days longer. I have thus entered into detail respecting myself, because I thought it might be what your kind, warm heart would desire to know.

“But now, turning from the *sick* and *suffering* man, let me *humbly* acknowledge that the inward man, walking in the furnace, has been wonderfully sustained and enabled to triumph day after day. Oh, Sister Emily, how precious is full salvation in our times of extremity! When every nerve was quivering with agony, the heart sent up its blessed testimony—‘Washed in the blood of the Lamb.’ I realized, too, that I would have some *little* claim to the other part of that blessed Scripture—‘These are they that have come up through great tribulation,’ etc. I could, if I were physically able, fill many pages with these experiences—*all of grace*. Join me to sing, ‘Glorify to the Lamb.’

“All the rest are well, and send you and Brother Edward tenderest love. Do please write soon again—your letters are like so much light thrown into my sick-room. God bless my Wilmington friends.”

To Mrs. Stevens, of Wilmington, Del. :

“NEWARK, November 8, 1871.

“To-day they are allowing me to sit up for a little while. Thank God for this indication of convalescence; but I am still very much prostrated in my physical nature. To rest my weight on my feet or to take a single step would be quite out of the question. As yet, there is no developing appetite whatever. I nibble a little, but it is a mere matter of form, or to make some contribution to the reduced strength of my system. The great concern on my mind has been to know exactly what is the will or design of my Heavenly Father in this dispensation. It has wonderfully increased my interest in and sympathy for suffering humanity. Oh, it seems to me I would most

willingly rub or bathe the feet even of a suffering brute. It has realized to me the power and preciousness of many parts of Scripture bearing upon suffering—passages that previously had their exposition principally in my intellect. It has satisfied me of the independent action of the soul, for when my whole lower nature seemed to be quivering and quailing through excruciating pain, my higher being not only trusted, but triumphed in the God of my salvation. The best hours of my illness were when the fierce fires of suffering were kindling and scorching all around me. It has convinced me that full salvation is the only preparation for the ten thousand contingencies that belong to a mortal career. Oh, how soothing to feel, hour by hour, that the soul has been washed in the blood of the Lamb, and to experience the inspiration of that perfect love that casteth out all fear that hath torment. These with other lessons have been most precious and profitable, and yet I can not but think that my faithful Lord has some ulterior meaning in this affliction that is not as yet fully or satisfactorily revealed. I want to sit like little Samuel, and, with a humble and obedient heart, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.’ God’s will is so infinitely good, that without fear I would follow where it leads. Your allusions to the grassy hillocks in the Clyde Cemetery were most tender and touching. Truly, as you intimate, those sacred mounds become our earthly Pisgahs. They lift us above the world, and enable us to retrospect profitably the past and anticipate rapturously

“‘Canaan, fair and happy land,  
Where *our possessions* lie.’

“Let me thank you, my dear sister, for your gentle sympathy and strong and valued affection. ‘A world in purchase for such a friend would not be too dear.’ Your beautiful letter was read again and again in my sick-room, and in every instance it lifted me up in my thoughts and feelings. Will you not remember me most affectionately to your beloved daughters? We shall still indulge the hope of sharing with them the hospitality of our itinerant home.”

To Mrs. Abraham Bruner, his mother-in-law :

“Saturday, November 11, 1871.

“I am writing this note in my bed, to which I have been confined for three weeks. For some months past I have been far from well, but at the close of my sermon on the evening of October 22 I felt my feet giving away. I limped home, went to bed, and for about nine days was almost distracted with what my physicians entitled *mialgia*—an acute form of inflammatory rheumatism. The pain was confined to my ankles and the soles of my feet.

It was just as if the back part of the feet were filled with teeth, and all at the same time affected with violent, jumping toothache. This, of course, made my feet so sore that I could scarcely bear to have them touched. Then the pulsing pain in the sore feet, continuing day after day, so involved my whole nervous system that toward the last it was almost like convulsions. The only relief that I got was through morphine and chloroform. For ten days I have been relieved of the pain, but still am very sick. Only once have I sat up, and then returned to bed with a raging fever. Fever, bloody expectorations, sore throat, torpid liver, disordered kidneys, absence of all appetite, hemorrhoids, and great weakness, are my symptoms at present. My physician, Dr. Nichols, a skillful and experienced practitioner of the old school, is very faithful in coming to see me twice a day. Then my precious wife (God bless her!) has been unremitting in her attentions. Day and night, like a loving angel, she has hovered over my pillow, studying my wants, anticipating my wishes. Oh, I can never repay her for her self-sacrificing and unwavering love! I fancy she looks thin through her constant nursing, but she would not permit any one to take her place, and I am sure I do not want any one else.

"Above all, dear mother, I have had the precious Jesus with me during every hour of my sickness. When my pains were most severe, He would let down on my soul such a weight of glory that I was obliged to break forth in strains of praise and joy. Oh, precious mother, how invaluable is full salvation in suffering and in the prospect of eternity! To feel that the soul is washed in the blood of the Lamb, and to realize the perfect love that casteth out all fear that hath torment. Oh, this is more than all the world beside!

"But I am weary now. I can write no more."

Through all his sickness Mr. Cookman retained his fondness for singing, and sometimes would have his wife and his little Mary and Helen on his bed beside him, joining in such hymns as "Rock of Ages," "Oh, how I love Jesus!" "I shall be satisfied," "Jesus calls me." His voice never seemed fuller and sweeter. One day he was so much better as to be able to be out in the sitting-room. Lying on the sofa, or reclining in an easy chair, his face wore a most heavenly expression, and his remark upon every thing around him was, "Oh, it is beautiful!" Seeing a gentleman walking fast on the street, he said, "That is the way I used to walk. I wonder if I ever shall walk that

way again?" His wife remarked, "Certainly ;" but he seemed to doubt it. On the last evening that he sat up, his sister Mary being present, he asked them to sing,

"Oh, it was love, it was wondrous love!"

and other spiritual songs. He retired about nine o'clock, and that was the last time the family sang together.

One day he said to his wife, "Do you know what I have been doing? I have been *counting my friends*." When told that it was impossible, he had so many, and that he could not have an enemy, "No," he remarked, "I do not know that I have. God has been very good to me, but you know there are some very special friends."

Never was Mr. Cookman more devoted to his wife and children than now. Having consecrated his children to God from their birth, he confidently trusted them with the Heavenly Father. Every day he wished them all brought to his bedside; especially the youngest, his baby boy, Alfred, whom he called his sunshine, he would have on his bed and play with him by the hour. His little Willie said to him one day, "Papa, do you think you will ever bathe in the ocean again?" "No, darling, I reckon these feet will never touch that graveled walk again." He even taught his boys to recite pieces, heard his daughter Annie recite a hymn, was so cheerful that all thought him convalescent, and, indeed, no one thought him critically ill until the day of his death.

On Saturday, the 11th of November, Dr. J. M. Ward, a member of the Presbyterian Church, visited and prayed with him. The Doctor afterward gave an account of the visit in *The Guide to Holiness*.\*

"I saw our dear Brother Alfred Cookman just two days before he left us. Committing to me at that time the care of his weekly meeting for the promotion of holiness, he added, 'I shall be out in a week or two, and will resume the care of it myself.' So he doubtless thought; but the dear Lord

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\* July, 1872.

had other service for him above. He was sitting in his chair by the bedside, his face glowing with heavenly brightness. To speak was painful to him, from soreness of the throat ; and yet so full, even to overflowing, was his heart with the love of Christ, that he could not refrain from talking. As truly might it have been said of him, as of one of old, 'the love of Christ constraineth me ;' for his utterances were such as the Holy Spirit only could give.

"In answer to a question as to his sufferings during the week, he said, 'They have been excruciating, and yet so gloriously has Jesus manifested Himself to me in them all that I have been immensely the gainer from them. Such views of Christ's presence with me—such views of His cleansing blood have I had as never before. Oh, the precious blood !' he exclaimed. Then, with an upward glancing of his eye, his head leaning backward upon the chair, he repeated, 'Oh, the precious blood, the precious cleansing blood of Jesus !'

"No marvel that he was getting clearer views of the precious blood under clearer manifestations of Christ to him, for he was ripening most wonderfully, all unconscious to himself and us all, for his entrance upon his heavenly inheritance ; he was being 'made meet' for the abundant entrance so soon to be administered to him into the heavenly Jerusalem. \* \* \*

"The prayer was ended, in a moment more the parting was said, while hand was pressing hand, and the interview closed. But the glory filling the chamber of the sainted one seemed still to encircle me all the way homeward, giving character to my first utterances to friends, as I said, 'Oh, what a blessed interview with Brother Cookman this afternoon !'

During the doctor's prayer he would frequently respond, "The sweet will of God." To his sister he said the same day, "If I could have life on earth by the lifting of my hand, I would not. If Jesus should ask me, 'Would I live or die?' I would answer, 'I refer it back to Thee.'"

To the Rev. Mr. Dunn, in his last interview, he said, "I wish that I could tell you how precious Jesus has been to me during my sickness. I have had such views of Him as I never had before. Right in the midst of my intensest sufferings He has so manifested Himself to me that I have been lifted above them all."

He remarked to his wife, "God means something by this sickness ; He is either fitting me for greater usefulness here or

for heaven. I am lying passive in His hands, trying to learn the lessons He would teach me. I am sitting in the hands of the Heavenly Artist." To one of his official members he used substantially these words: "My Church is very dear to me; my wife and children are very precious; my friends are dear to me; but *the sweet will of God* I love better than all else; I have no choice to live or die. God has some design in this sickness—Jesus is very precious." Often he would repeat, "Lo! I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." The same evening the Rev. William McDonald and two members of the Church visited him; he enjoyed seeing them, and during prayer there was an extraordinary sense of the divine presence.

Sunday, his last Sabbath on earth, was a beautiful day. He requested his wife to open the window and let the bright sunshine in the room, remarking, "The beams of the Sun of Righteousness are shining around me. Glory all around!" He requested to be sung—

"Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;"

and said, "That grand old hymn! Yes, I am weak and *wounded*, sick and *sore*."

He was very earnest all day in praying for the ministers and the preaching of the Word. In the afternoon Mr. McDonald visited him again, and they conversed closely and fully on the subject of holiness. He said among other things to this friend, "I have tried to preach holiness. I have honestly declared it; and oh! what a comfort it is to me now. I have been true to holiness; and now Jesus saves me—saves me fully. I am washed and made clean. Oh, I am so sweetly washed in the blood of the Lamb!" That evening he became extremely weak, and so sensitive to pain that he could not bear the least noise, and yet he was tender and quiet without the slightest manifestation of impatience, and so considerate that when he heard the voice of one of the brethren in an adjoining room he asked to see

him. The friend remarked, "Why, my pastor, you are all fixed up—collar on and wrapper on." "Ah," he replied, "your pastor has not much strength; the outward is failing, but all is right within."

Quite early Monday morning he asked his wife the question, "Where will you live, in Columbia or Philadelphia?" Affected to tears she replied, "Why do you ask me that question? I could not live any where without you." Seeing her feel thus, he sweetly said, "I thought I would like to know." This was the first morning he was unable to shave himself; he was very weak, and he evidently was impressed that his end was approaching. He asked his wife again, "My dear, if the Lord should take me away from you, could you say, 'The will of the Lord be done!'" She, startled at the question, replied, "I feel that you belong to the Lord, I have always felt so, but I do not believe He is going to take you away from me." He responded, "God's will is always right and best, dear." "But," she said, "how can I live without you?" He replied, "Jesus can be every thing to you; He has been with us in the past, and He will never leave nor forsake you. You know the Bible is full of promises for the widow and fatherless. Live a moment at a time, 'looking unto Jesus;' and then, if *permitted*, I will be with you often; I will be your *guardian angel*, and be the first to meet you at the pearly gate."

His mother spent most of Monday with him. While she was present he lost the use of his hand. He remarked, as he looked at it, "This hand seems paralyzed, *but it belongs to Jesus.*" He then repeated part of the hymn—

"God moves in a mysterious way."

His mother said, "I feel it a privilege, Alfred, to be in this room, there is such a divine influence; it seems like the gate of heaven." He responded, "Yes, there are heavenly visitants here." About five o'clock P.M. she left him to return to her home in New York, not supposing him to be near death.

As she was kissing him good-bye, he held her hand, and, gazing into her eyes, he said, "Dear, precious mother, next to the Lord Jesus, I owe every thing to you. Your holy influence, your godly example, your wise counsels have made me the Christian and the minister that I am." To his brother John he said, "John, you have been a mercy to me—mercy is written on your brow. My friends are all a mercy to me. I am not afraid to die. *Death is the gate to endless glory; I am washed in the blood of the Lamb.*" He desired to see his sister-in-law, Miss Rebecca Bruner, who had just arrived from Columbia, Pennsylvania, and after inquiring for the loved ones at home, he said to her, "This is the sickest day of my life, but all is well; I am so glad I have preached full salvation; what would I do without it now? If you forget every thing else, remember my testimony—WASHED IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB! Jesus is drawing me closer and closer to His great heart of infinite love." To his wife he said, "I am Christ's little infant; just as you fold your little babe to your bosom, so I am nestled close to the heart of Jesus." Shortly afterward his oldest son, George, returning from New York, came into the room; looking up to him, he said, "My son, your papa has been all day long *sweeping close by the gates of death.*" At his request he was removed to the other side of the bed, when he remarked, "How sweet and quiet every thing seems; I feel like resting now." Very soon he became sick at the stomach, and immediately an effusion of the brain took place, when he became insensible to outward things, and within about four hours, at eleven o'clock P.M., surrounded by his family and the trustees of his Church, he died, sweeping through the gates of Paradise, washed in the blood of the Lamb.\*

Thus, on the 13th of November, 1871, passed to the bosom

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\* It does not appear from the most accurate evidence that Mr. Cookman said literally, "I am sweeping through the gates, washed in the blood of the Lamb;" yet his expressions, when put together, certainly justify the phrase which has obtained popular currency as his dying testimony.



of God, in the prime of his life, one of the most saintly, earnest, and useful men of modern times. His dying testimony carries us back to the glowing record of St. Ignatius, when yearning for martyrdom: "Suffer me to imitate the passion of my God. My Love is crucified; there is no fire in me desiring earthly fuel; that which lives and speaks within me says—'Home to the Father.'"

The intelligence of Mr. Cookman's death spread rapidly, and was every where received with astonishment and pain. His most intimate friends, even those who had seen him during his illness, were shocked at its suddenness. The thought of death had not been really associated with one who had moved so recently among men with a vigor which promised a long and healthful life. The shock at his sudden death was only exceeded by the universal grief which it caused. It was as though "one were dead in every house" where he was known or the odor of his sanctity had entered. It is a question if the mysterious loss of his father, though it may have gathered about it more romantic interest, excited a more general and profound grief. "When I heard of his death," writes a gentleman from Philadelphia, "I spent a week silently in tears." Exclaimed an old colored woman in Wilmington when told of his death, "Dat man gone straight to glory." His family, his Church, the churches which he had previously served, were overwhelmed with sorrow. From private persons and public bodies, from both the secular and religious press, there teemed the most tender expressions of regret and condolence.

The funeral services took place in the Central Church, Market Street, Newark, at three P.M., on Thursday, the 16th. The following account appeared the next week in *The New York Christian Advocate*:

"The parsonage was filled at the funeral with ministers, chiefly Methodist, but also of other denominations, who appeared subdued by the feeling that a very afflictive and mysterious dispensation had fallen upon the Church

and the family in the unexpected removal of Brother Cookman. The plate on the beautiful coffin told the age of the deceased to be forty-four; and pure, sweet flowers rested on either end, at the foot in the shape of a cross, at the head in that of a crown.

"At 2:30 P.M. the procession moved from the house, the family and bearers in carriages, followed by the officers of the Church, and perhaps a hundred clergymen from far and from near. One of the most affecting sights of the occasion was the little children of our departed brother about the coffin and in the procession, evidently not old enough to appreciate the fullness of their loss. The church—pulpit, altar, gallery, choir—was heavily draped in mourning, and crowded in every part, including the aisles, out into the street, by a deeply sympathizing congregation. In the pulpit were Bishop Simpson, Rev. De Witt Talmage, Dr. Porter, Dr. Crane, Rev. Mr. McDonald, and others; the altar also, and a considerable portion of the centre of the church, were occupied by brother clergymen. The opening anthem came soothingly, 'Cast thy burden on the Lord.'

"Rev. S. Van Benschoten read Psalm xc., and Mr. Talmage 1 Cor. xv., when the venerable Dr. Porter led in a solemn and appropriate prayer. Rev. Bishop Simpson then addressed the hushed audience.\* Throughout the bishop's manner was very subdued, as though struggling to repress the rising of a great sorrow.

"Rev. Mr. McDonald then rose and spoke of Brother Cookman in his relation to holiness and the National Camp-meeting Association.† The choir sang 'White Robes,' and the deeply affected congregation took their last loving look at their beloved pastor and friend."

After the services the remains were carried to Philadelphia, accompanied by the family, members of the National Camp-meeting Committee, and a large delegation from the Central Church. They were deposited at the house of Mr. Frank Cookman, whence the next day they were escorted to the Union Methodist Episcopal Church on Fourth Street, where additional funeral services took place in presence of a densely crowded congregation. As the clergy walked slowly into the church, the strains of the "Dead March from Saul" helped to deepen the solemnity of the scene. An anthem was then sung by the choir, and the Rev. Dr. Nevin, of the Presbyterian Church, read

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\* See Chapter XXVI., p. 469.

† *Ibid.*, p. 474.

the Scriptures. Rev. J. Dickerson announced the hymn, "Servant of God, well done," which was sung by the congregation; and the Rev. Dr. Pattison offered prayer. The Rev. Dr. Sudards, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, after reading another scriptural lesson, addressed the audience, in which he made feeling allusion to his intimacy with the Rev. George G. Cookman, and paid a high tribute to the excellence and usefulness of both father and son. The Rev. Andrew Longacre next followed in an extended address, relating to the character, labors, and death of the deceased.\* The Rev. Mr. Alday, pastor of Union Church, then spoke more particularly of the last sickness of the departed. The closing address was by the Rev. Dr. (now Bishop) Foster, of Drew Theological Seminary, New Jersey, who spoke substantially as follows:

"Alfred Cookman belonged to a royalty. There are many royalties of earth; there is the royalty of *genius*, but I should not class our brother with these—he was not a genius. There is the royalty of *intellect*; of scientific research; of the power to unfold great doctrines and grasp great principles. Though a man of a beautiful mind, a clear and strong intellect, the range and sweep of his observation was not his most wonderful gift. There is a royalty of *eloquence*: our brother was not wanting in this; he seemed to belong to a race whose lips were strangely touched.

"But he belonged to a royalty rarer by far than any of these—the *scraphic royalty* of earth. He was not Pauline, but he was Johanine. He was the brother of John, who leaned upon the Master's breast, from whom he drew his inspiration. He belonged to the race of Fletcher and of Payson—the best and rarest royalty God has ever permitted to grace the earth.

"When the brother prayed that the mantle of Alfred Cookman might fall on us, I said, 'Amen, Lord Jesus.' Not his mantle of eloquence or pulpit power, so much as his great, magnanimous, holy, and sacred character.

"As my little boy brought the message of the death of Alfred Cookman to my lecture-room, he knew how it would strike me; he knew he had ministered at the altar where his sainted mother and sister used to worship; so he said in a whisper, 'Father, Brother Cookman is dead.' Oh, how it shocked me! I thought at once that the most sacred man I knew had gone

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\* See Chapter XXVI., p. 476.

away from us; and this is my testimony to-day. I have known the Church for thirty years; I have known the men of the Church during that time through all the episcopacy and ministry; and the most sacred man I have known is he who is enshrined in that casket."

"The casket was then opened, and the large concourse present were permitted, moving up the central aisles and retiring by the rear doors, to see the face they shall look upon no more till resurrection morning. Many as they passed bent over and imprinted a kiss on the cold lips and marble brow, which wore the natural expression and sweetest smile, remembered so well by all who knew him in life. Tears fell freely as the scores whom he had led to Jesus bade him a last farewell." The preparations for burial followed; and Rev. Messrs. Gillingham, Turner, Dickerson, Major, and A. Wallace, surviving members of the class of 1848, Philadelphia Conference, of which Mr. Cookman was a member, carried the body of their classmate to the hearse in waiting, and also to the grave in Laurel Hill Cemetery, where the burial service was read by the Rev. W. L. Gray, Dr. Pattison, and Dr. J. H. Alday. The hymn "Rock of Ages" was sung—he having expressed when in health a liking for singing at Christians' graves—and just before sunset his body was committed to the earth. Laurel Hill, hitherto his Pisgah, was now his last resting-place.

Memorial services were held in many of the churches of Philadelphia; in Grace Church, Wilmington; in Central Church, Newark; and also in Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, New York. The trustees of the Central Church, Newark, have had a Gothic tablet of Italian marble placed in the audience-room of their church, in the wall at the right of the pulpit, with this inscription:

**"In Memory of Rev. Alfred Cookman.**

BORN JANUARY 4, 1828.

DIED NOVEMBER 13, 1871.

*"He walked with God and was not, for God took him."*

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### ESTIMATES OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF ALFRED COOKMAN.

WE have thus seen the earth close over all that was mortal of Alfred Cookman. I have sought so to weave into the narrative of his life the traits which distinguished him, as they appeared not only to myself, but also to others, that now there seems but little need from me for any special characterization of the man or his work. Yet it may not be amiss, before dismissing a subject which I have studied with constantly increasing interest, to briefly sum up my thoughts.

It has seldom fallen to any man to possess a nature in all respects so admirably attuned as his was. He inherited the physical and intellectual qualities of both his father and mother, the distinctive type being possibly rather that of his mother than his father—having much of the father's fiery creative energy, he yet partook more largely of his mother's strong common-sense. In body he was more robust than his father; in intellect he was less bold and incisive, but probably equally sure, and even more tenacious. From a child he was healthful. When grown, in person he stood about five feet nine inches, and was well proportioned, with a full, round chest, a head of medium size, not a prominent forehead, surmounted and surrounded by rich, glossy black hair; his eyes were gray, large and full, with a gentle, lustrous, rather than a piercing look; his nose was straight, with sufficiently distended nostrils; his mouth wide, lips moderately full, well set, but not too tightly compressed, showing an expression of mingled tenderness and firmness; a chin round, smoothly shaven, and massive enough for strength—the whole face just such as to

make you say when you had the hastiest view of it, "There is a marked and trustworthy man." With a ruddy complexion, a sinewy form, a steady step, an erect carriage, he looked like one born to command, and he did command.

Mr. Cookman's fine physical fibre had much to do with the exquisite delicacy of his feelings. Truly natural, without the least artificiality, he responded healthfully to all the works of God about him, and was never more at home than when surrounded by primitive scenes and primitive people. He was very practical ; the farthest removed from an affectation of superiority to common matter-of-fact life, he ever manifested a keen zest in all the ordinary occurrences of the family and the world. "There was nothing human which was foreign to him," in the sense that whatever interested his fellow-men interested him. He never fell into the mistake of a morbid sentimentalism which shuts itself away from men and things under the plea of contempt for mankind. He was truly modest, shrinking whenever possible from observation, and "wondering what the churches saw in him that they should desire his poor services." The lowest seat suited him best, and was invariably taken if the choice were left to him, and no man ever more surely fulfilled the apostolic injunction, "In honor preferring one another."

Generosity was strongly marked in his character. While he was incapable of retaining a grudge against an enemy, to his friends he was unbounded in his devotion. He could not say too much in their praise or do too much for their advantage. This quality made him charming as a pastor—no matter if the circle of his friendship was constantly enlarging, he had capacity for its ever-widening increase—because he never seemed to forget or overlook any one he had ever loved ; and into the circumstances of all people, whether of joy or grief, he could enter with an ease and directness which made all who were the recipients of his sympathy feel its genuineness. During his

last sickness a gentleman called to tell him of the death of his boy. He entered promptly into the afflicted father's feelings, and in comforting him said, "Dear brother, the heart will ache. It is not wrong to weep. Jesus wept, and He does sympathize with us ; but remember Jesus can dwell in an aching heart." A day or two afterward the child was buried. It was a stormy day, and as Mr. Cookman lay upon his bed he was heard to pray that God would comfort the bereaved family, "for, Lord, it is hard to put away the little darling on such a stormy day."

This generosity of heart made him very kind to the poor. It was not an uncommon thing for him either to send or to take a basket of provisions to a destitute family, and oftener than otherwise a substantial sum of money accompanied the basket. Generosity, natural as it was, took shape under Christian principles, and was not allowed to spend itself impulsively. The one tenth of his income was dedicated to strictly religious uses. The benevolent drawer as regularly received its *tithe deposit* as his pocket received the stated dues on account of salary or from other sources. Closely joined with this dedication of himself and a stated proportion of his income to God, was a firm faith in the care of divine Providence. There were times when, with a large family, he was reduced to great straits ; but he would always take his burden to the Lord Jesus, and somehow, often in a way wholly unexpected, relief would come. During these exigencies his liberality remained the same to others. "Their need," he would say, "may be greater than mine."

One of the most lovely features of Mr. Cookman's character was his filial affection. He revered the memory of his father, and loved his mother with a devotion which led him to sit at her feet as a little child. The recollections he retained of his father, which were sedulously cherished by the mother, invested the departed parent with a halo which, to the fervid imag-

ination of the son, lifted him to a region ideally apart and unapproachable. The fame of the father was the son's natural inheritance, and as such he sought to preserve and improve upon it. And it is doubtful if Christian biography affords many instances where a guardianship has been more faithfully rendered, or an inheritance more legitimately and substantially enlarged. Alfred Cookman will live in the Church of the future as in all respects a worthy successor of his father, the Rev. George G. Cookman. That the son owed much to the father can not be denied ; but where has a son so well maintained himself on heights upon which his father's reputation placed him ?

More, however, to the mother did he owe than to any other human being. I may repeat the thought of another and say, Mrs. Mary Cookman was mother of the body and *soul* of her son. What Wordsworth so justly and gratefully said of his sister, Alfred could have said of his mother :

“ She gave me eyes, she gave me cars ;  
And humble cares, delicate fears ;  
A heart, the fountain of sweet tears,  
And love, and thought, and joy.”

Her native sense, delicate tact, moral ascendancy, firmness of discipline, religious fervor, feminine tenderness, and withal devotion to her son, which well-nigh inwardly consumed her with zeal for his welfare, afforded the happy combination of qualities which simultaneously and continuously stirred and guided the natural powers of her first-born. She never allowed him to outgrow her, and hence he never ceased to look up to her. In his middle age he could as confidently rely upon her understanding as upon her heart ; and to the fact of this mother's influence may be largely traced not only the womanly grace of his mind and manner, but also the subtle force and reliable judgment which distinguished his career.

In seeking for the ultimate cause of Mr. Cookman's power,



I am obliged to find it in his moral nature. Religion, built upon a sound, natural basis, was the real source of his influence. It is impossible to estimate the man without considering the joint and reciprocal effects of both his natural and spiritual constitution, for their interaction was marked from the beginning. This may be true of most men, but it was eminently so of him. These pages have certainly shown him to be a singularly godly person through his whole life ; the testimony of many who knew him most intimately, and who were well qualified by their good sense and opportunities of observation to judge, is to the effect that he was one of the holiest of men, as free from moral taint as any among whom he walked. A factor so important in the make-up of his character can not be disregarded in the determination of his intellectual calibre. That his religious condition did affect his intellectual condition can not be questioned ; nor do I pretend to doubt, but claim it rather as a glory, that the distinctive energy of Mr. Cookman was spiritual rather than intellectual.

But I am not willing to concede that this energy was so exclusively moral as some assert. He did not owe all he was to religion—no, not to that highest type of it, Christian holiness—in the sense that he could have been nothing, and would have had no marked power without it. He possessed by nature a very vigorous mind. Its structure was such that with the ordinary opportunities of education it would have put him in the foremost ranks in almost any profession he might have chosen. He was endowed with all the essential elements of success—a discriminating judgment, a retentive memory, a vivid fancy, a strong imagination, which saw things most clearly, a sympathizing heart, a power of application and adaptation ; these, united to a handsome person and a voice of wondrous compass and melody, must be accepted as the faculties which ordinarily warrant success. Genius, in the highest sense, seldom falls to mortals ; but if in its usual and lower sense it consists in the

power which enables a man to see things as they are, and to transfuse them with a glow which makes other men see and feel them, then may we claim it for Mr. Cookman. What he talked about people saw and felt.

It is true that he has given no proofs of profound scholarship, and that he has left no evidence of fierce intellectual struggles and doubts. But it will be remembered that his career was thrust upon him, by a Providence he could not disregard, to be a preacher rather than a theologian. The work of the evangelist was definitively pointed out as his mission, and not the work of the student. His vocation was consequently to make history, not to write it. An actor in one of the most important crises of the American Church and nation, he has left to others, who may have the leisure and the taste, to record what he and his compeers have so nobly done. Had he resisted solicitations to so wide-spread a public service, and withdrawn to the seclusion of the study, he might have been as noted to-day for the depth and versatility of his attainments as for his popular and effective eloquence.

He did, I allow, accept calmly the doctrines of the Church. There is but little trace of dissent and disquiet in the history of his religious thought. But must spasms of disbelief, crises of fearful questioning, be regarded as the infallible signs of a strong mind? Shall it be regarded as an orthodox word among those who scoff at orthodox Christianity, that no man can be voted to the grade of able and original thinkers who has not passed through the throes of mortal doubt touching all the great fundamentals of truth which the wisdom of ages has sat in judgment upon and approved? If so, Mr. Cookman must be rejected. But it is a fact that many of the greatest minds of these and other times have never passed through any such phases of unrest. "So far from this, some of the finest spirits—those whose vision is most intuitive and penetrating—are the most exempt from such anxious soul travails. Indeed, I believe

that there is no such safeguard against the worst consequences of such perplexities as a heart that is pure, humble, and 'at leisure from itself.' \*\*

Such was the state of Alfred Cookman. His judgments were steadily, quietly reached ; not that his intellect was less capable, but that a sound heart did the main work of the intellect.

The medium of Mr. Cookman's power was the office and work of the Christian pastor. By ruling, visiting, and preaching, this power was exerted upon the minds and hearts of the flock of Christ. For the threefold duty of his office he was fitted by the gifts and graces just discussed. This fitness made him ready and able to use, as circumstances required, all the legitimate means of ministerial usefulness. He despised no means, neglected none, which could give him greater access to the hearts of the people. His invention was ever at work to impart freshness to old means, or, if necessary, to devise new expedients of exciting attention. He was among the first Methodist pastors to issue printed addresses to the congregation, or cards such as his "League of Prayer," to promote revivals of religion. He usually spent the forenoons of each day, except Monday, in his study, and the afternoons in pastoral calls. To the sick, the bereaved, and the penitent he was very attentive.

His visits were an effective instrument of his great success as a revivalist. He would follow up closely those who in the congregation manifested a desire for religion, and the result of his careful attention to persons thus exercised was that they seldom failed of obtaining comfort. Underlying his thoughtfulness and perseverance was his prayerfulness and faith. "I knew him," writes his wife, "when in Wilmington and other places, during a season of religious awakening, to stay up until near day-break alone in his study, pleading with God for the conversion of the people ; and when I have gone to him in the night and entreated him to rest, he has said he 'could not, so

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\* "Culture and Religion," p. 106.

great was his burden for souls.' He believed in intercessory prayer, and often remarked, 'Jesus spent whole nights in prayer!' " The Rev. Mr. Inskip, speaking of him at the memorial service, Ocean Grove, said: "His great strength he got from God at the mercy-seat. \* \* \* Perhaps on no other occasion was this more apparent than in that wonderful season of prayer at Vineland. A halo of glory was around him. He rose from his knees with his hands heavenward, his eyes closed, and the influence that was felt all over the ground told of his intimate relations with God." A gentleman of the Baptist Church spoke also of the same occasion: "I shall never forget the picture I saw at Vineland; it was under the arbor where Dr. and Mrs. Palmer were holding a meeting, and Brother Cookman led in prayer. He was on his knees, with his hands raised, asking God for blessings. Instinctively I opened my eyes. He rose from his knees, and reaching up as high as he could, seemed to grasp the blessings asked for; and then, falling on his knees again, he thanked God for them. How much good it did me to see such faith that would just reach up and get what God was about to give."

Prayer and faith were never lost sight of in his preparations for the pulpit. He sought direction of God in the selection and elaboration of his topics, and then depended upon God for their effectiveness. He was never happier than when preaching. While always pertinent and instructive, he was at times borne away by a tide of holy feeling, which swept both preacher and audience upon its resistless strength. Mr. Cookman seldom attempted great profundity or metaphysical niceties, but mostly dealt in the plainer and more substantial facts of revelation—stating them usually in simple language, and enlivening them with a natural imagery, a life-like or historical incident, so that they were apprehended by all, even the most illiterate, and enjoyed also by the cultured among his hearers. The late Rev. Albert Barnes, of Philadelphia, was exceedingly fond of his

preaching, as affording to his mind one of the best examples of pure Gospel sermonizing. A peculiarity of Mr. Cookman's preaching was the frequent recognition of the three persons in the Godhead. The cross of Christ, the blood of Jesus, was a constantly recurring theme ; while he as repeatedly dwelt upon the person, office, and work of the Holy Ghost.

It was by no mere novelties he drew the masses—the common people heard him gladly, not as they rushed to see a show, but expecting from his lips the words of life ; and he gave them bread, the vital truth of God, to feed them, and did not mock them with a stone. His popularity in the pulpit was not due to meretricious ornaments, or to the low buffoonery that caters to a vicious taste, but to what he was as a holy man, and to what he said as the ambassador of Jesus Christ.

If his themes were few, they were chosen conscientiously, because he believed it was impossible for a man who preached to save men to stir from the cross of the Redeemer. He did, however, present these themes with great freshness and unction. "To me," an eloquent minister said, who knew him well and heard him often, "he was one of the freshest of speakers." Whatever of light from nature, art, or passing events could be shed on these topics for their more forcible illustration, he sought and diligently applied. Nothing was more apparent than that in the pulpit he was a thoughtful man in a thinking and active age. But, above all, did he make the invariable impression that his trust for the success of the Word was upon supernatural help. The hearer who did not gather this failed of the simplest teaching of the devout preacher. The whole effect of the man was, that whoever might be the instrument used, it is God who giveth the increase. The effect of his evident reliance upon divine aid was also heightened by his free, natural, and forcible delivery. His voice and gestures were always suited to his subjects—now low, slow, and tender, and anon rising into vehemence of sound and action with the cumulation

of thought and feeling. Ample preparation having been made, generally with the pen in hand, he entered the pulpit untrammelled by manuscript, and in the delivery of the sermon looked his audience directly in the eyes, and as he proceeded both gave and received inspiration. It is doubtful if, as a preacher, take him all in all, he had his superior for effective popular discourse among the younger men of the land.

As to his capacity as a ruler, one phrase will express the whole—he ruled but little. He trusted his people, and they trusted him. He was an ensample to the flock, a model of purity in the minor as well as greater morals. His speech was always seasoned with grace, though not indifferent to the flavor of humor; he was the farthest removed from bitterness, coarseness, and trifling. He was temperate in all things—totally so in things which might occasion offense—moderate in dress and in household expenditures. With as keen a relish for the refinements of life as any soul ever attuned to the harmony of sweet sounds, he yet esteemed saving men preferable to all the delights which art could afford. This thought is admirably pointed by the substance of a conversation had with him by Mrs. Battershall, of New York, while he was stationed at Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia :

“Mr. Cookman, with that total absence of censoriousness which characterizes a perfect Christian charity, and yet with that earnestness we should expect from a faithful Christian watchman, when Zion’s best interests are imperiled, remarked to me on one occasion that ‘the culture of the beautiful within proper limits was all well and good, but he considered the glory of God and the good of souls of infinitely more value than the highest human culture.’”

Mr. Cookman’s views of the ministerial vocation did not shut him away from society or the nation. He retained fully his position as a citizen of the state. To him, as to one before him, “politics was the body of religion ;” and he ever took the live-

liest interest in the great social and political questions of his times, as closely related to the welfare of Christ's kingdom and the race. He was decided and active in the Temperance and other humane reforms, giving to them not only his countenance, but his cordial support. Much less did his calling as a Methodist pastor exclude him from the most intimate fellowship with all the people of God. He was incapable of narrowness. He loved the image of Jesus wherever he saw it, and was happy to count among his dearest friends and fellow-workers many ministers and laymen beyond the pale of his own denomination. In no slight degree did his truly catholic spirit help forward the deepening unity and spirituality which are now pervading the several branches of Christ's holy Church. And it may be safely affirmed that there is no name of American Methodism of the present generation more ardently revered by Christians of all denominations than the name of Alfred Cookman.

In assigning him his place in the modern Church, the distinction which I claim for him is that of a *marked illustration* of the doctrine of Christian holiness. Whatever may have been originally in the mind of God concerning him, evidently the providential circumstances of his life tended to mould his character and to shape his mission for this end. He was not disobedient to the heavenly calling. He can in no sense be ranked with original men—such as found new systems of thought, new societies, or even new methods of activity; his rank is with the class who afford the material, furnish the facts out of which systems, societies, and methods are constructed. As a fact, Mr. Cookman's life is of incalculable value to the student of the great problem of Christian ethics. No mind, however critical, can contemplate so striking an exhibition of moral purity, in its direct relation to the Gospel as its efficient cause, and ignore the importance of the divine element in the great process of elevating the human race. While to Christian inquirers with an animus to know what is the utmost that the Gospel of Christ

can accomplish for a believer in Jesus, it is an instance which must excite the highest wonder and delight, as affording another example of the practicability and beauty of holiness in their own times and among their own circles. The grace of God purified the man while walking among his fellows, lifted him up to shine as a clear, steady light by the very pathways of busy people.

And this, to show what Christianity can actually do for men as a purifying power, is what the world most needs to know. One clearly defined proof of this, such as is given in the case of our friend, is worth a thousand speculations. The danger of our age lies in the direction of sinking out of sight as a reality the agency of the Holy Ghost in the work of moral renovation. The tendency is to reduce the great first cause of salvation to a series of subordinate and incidental causes whereby man is manipulated into a new life. The scientific spirit is reasoning God out of the process of saving the world. An idolatrous worship of intellect threatens to drown in an incense of thought, culture, ideas, the stronger part of human nature, the *heart*, out of which are the issues of life. It is sought in some localities to politely bow out of society the Gospel of the cleansing blood, of regenerating grace, for a new Gospel of "culture." Mr. Cookman's life is an attestation of the abiding strength and the spring-like freshness of the old Gospel. It is an example of moral and spiritual purity, made such not by the innovating process of the "schools," but by the power of the Holy Ghost, through the blood shed on Calvary.

"It is the old, old story of Jesus and His love."

As such I have sought to present it to men. It may be that greater men have died without any such extended record of their lives; but I doubt if any one has lived among us more worthy of careful mention. He embodied in himself the attributes of humanity most necessary to be known, loved, and imi-



tated. These attributes had their rise in the cross of Jesus Christ, a source accessible alike to all persons. He lived and died an example of the reality and power of Christian purity—one of the most beautiful specimens of a natural, simple, yet divinely spiritual manhood which it has fallen to this or any age to possess, and as such he takes his position among the departed worthies of the Christian Church.

Mr. Cookman left seven children : George Grimston, Frank Simpson, Annie Bruner, William Wilberforce, Mary, Helen Kier, and Alfred ; Alfred Bruner and Rebecca Evans having died before him. Mrs. Cookman, his widow, and the children, have their permanent residence in Philadelphia, Pa.

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#### BISHOP SIMPSON'S ADDRESS AT THE FUNERAL OF REV. ALFRED COOKMAN.

How solemn this moment of sorrow ! With slow and measured steps we have entered the church, as though unwilling to disturb what might seem to be the slumbers of a dear one. We have come to drop a tear ; we have come to take a last look ; we have come to gather around the form of a loved brother and minister, and now a saint with Christ Jesus. The assembling of such an audience is but a faint indication of the esteem and affection which a departed brother had gained for himself in the Church of Jesus Christ. Standing where we do at this time, as on the very verge of the grave, and looking on the one hand to the fleeting years we have to stay, and on the other to the eternity that stretches out to our view, how short seems life ; how unimportant the transitory interests of life, and how grand and sublime the realities of life just beyond ! Without the Bible, death seems like a pause in a journey, a resting-place, a cessation of activity, a moment of indifference to all things ; but with the light of the Bible it is but the commencement of an eternal life, the renewal of exalted powers, the preparation of a state of being higher and grander than that which has closed ; and there are interests that gather around it that touch every heart.

There is not in this assembly one but has buried a friend ; there is not one who has not loved ones gone beyond the vale, and there is not one of us who will not be called upon in the order of Providence, probably before many years, to bury members of our families, or to be buried ourselves ;

and questions will arise as to what is this death, which smites down strong ones—this death that takes from our side the loveliest, that palsies the strong arm on which we have leaned, that makes silent the tongue of eloquence, the desire and glory of statesmen—this death that seems the end of the friendships of earth. I can not tell all that is in death, but one thing I know, that, as I have intimated, it is not the end of being, it is not the cessation of activity; it is but a transfer from a conference on earth to a conference in glory, it is but a passage from earth to sublimer scenes and employments in the world above. We can not see those who have gone before us. We do not know precisely what they are. We can not tell exactly where they are. We do not know accurately the thoughts which burn within their being, nor the great facts that have burst upon their minds. We know but in part, but we know this, that they are very lovely, for they are like Jesus in all His loveliness and in all His glory. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God; but it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is;” and the loved ones who sleep in Jesus, I know are like Jesus, though all that may be implied in that I can not tell. They think the thoughts of Jesus; they enter into the great plans of Jesus; they share in the great sympathies of the Son of God, and they are being transformed into the fullness of his glorified image. And what joy have they!

Often did our brother, who lies before us now sleeping this last sleep—often did he rejoice to look his congregations in the eye when standing on the platform or in the desk. How often has he addressed many of us who are here, and under the tones of his voice, his words, the message given him from God, we were spell-bound. He loved to see the children of God gathered around him, and especially was it a joy to assemble with those who now behold him, and to point them on and up in the way of life.

But while this clay lies here in the midst of us, he has taken his place in “the General Assembly and Church of the First-born, which are written in heaven;” he has gone “to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant:” Him he has seen, Him he has heard, and inconceivably grand visions have opened before him. How much he knows that he never knew before of the riches of heaven and of the great plans of God! You and I have stood gazing through a partially opened door, but he has swept through the gates into the city, and the eyes which have closed on earth have opened in heaven, and in many respects what we fail to comprehend here is understood there. The lips which are silent are attuned to nobler strains. He sang sweetly here, and I have listened to his strains, as he sang of Jesus with his melodious voice,

which is to be heard here no more ; but it is heard among the spirit voices in glory. We do not know what are the employments of the glorified. There are none of the unconverted to be preached to there, but there are the saints of all ages with whom we may mingle ; there are wonders of redeeming love to fathom ; there are new perceptions of the wisdom of God, and possibly there are missions to our lower world. I know in his heart he yearned over the Church of God, and in that heart he bent with the inquirer over the altar, pleading for forgiving grace. He joined with the pardoned, and triumphed in the love of God, and how often have I heard him sing the sweet doxology when souls were just born into the kingdom of our Lord. Over souls that are accepted from earth to their place in glory, over sinners washed in the blood of the Lamb, does he now exult ? I think he does more than ever. We sometimes think the Church will not triumph, and unbelief haunts our spirits ; but yonder he sees Christ waiting until his enemies shall become His footstool, and he sees how He makes all things work together for the triumph of His kingdom.

I have no words of eulogy to-day over our departed brother, but I do know that in the record of his life, the mind which was in our Lord Jesus Christ was made manifest, and he had qualities worthy of our examination and imitation. I may say, without a thought of flattery, that our brother possessed no ordinary talent. Blessed with a gifted father, who has often thrilled the hearts of those who worshiped here, and whose voice was hushed as he went down in the waves, and with a family all of them in the Church of the living God, and he himself a bright example among them of personal piety ; early consecrating himself to God, himself being the instrument in the conversion of some of the members of the family, his was indeed a favored lot. Entering the ministry at an early period of life, he devoted himself unsparingly and constantly to the one work of bringing sinners home to God.

As a minister he occupied no ordinary position. The churches which he has been called to serve, and the multitudes that have listened to him, attest both to his ability and fidelity. As a pastor he was kind, attentive, and faithful ; and I can speak both of the success of his ministrations and of his faithful pastoral labor from personal observation. Years ago he was the pastor of my family in the city of Pittsburgh, and my children became attached to him as their friend. And since we have been in the city of Philadelphia, he was again our pastor, and I saw him go in and out. He stood by the dying bed of one I loved, and his words and counsels were those of a Christian minister. I can say that during all the time I knew him I never heard one word or saw the manifestation of any spirit inconsistent with the highest forms of

the Christian life. In the pulpit or out of it, at the fireside or wherever he was, he was a faithful, pious leader of the people and follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Himself deeply devoted, he was very anxious to see a higher type of religion prevailing in the Church, and very often his theme was *Christian holiness*. I think, as he stands before the throne, he does not regret that so often his theme was "Be, ye holy, for I am holy." I rejoice to say that he taught only the doctrine which a happy experience and godly life verified. He was kind in all his ways, and brotherly in the expression of all his views. Toward those who did not see as he did, he cultivated the kindest spirit. He taught the truth as he saw it in Christ Jesus, but at the same time he held out his hand to every one, and said, "If thy heart be as my heart, give me thy hand." This spirit was shown toward all denominations of Christians, and many of those of other persuasions loved to sit under his ministrations. True to the interests of his own Church, and firm in the utterance of her doctrines, he was far from having any thing of a spirit of bigotry, but every where he saw the image of his Master he loved it.

Indeed, it is a mystery why he should be cut down so young, in middle age, and even more youthful looking than he was. Why was he cut down? He stood by my bedside when life was trembling in the balance, and little did I then think that I should be called to speak when his voice was hushed in death. I seem to myself to be standing on the edge of the grave. I am walking in the tombs, and the ground is breaking under my feet. There is Thompson and Kingsley and McClintock and Nadal and Foss, and now here is Brother Cookman. Why is this? I can not tell. We know that God can carry on His work. We know that He does all things well. Perhaps He is teaching the Church that it must look more to Him than to the instrumentality. He may be calling young men to take the places of those who are falling from the citadel of Zion. There is a purpose, and there is a voice in these dispensations of Providence.

Our brother was not called to pass through a very long period of illness, though he was ill for some days. I had heard of his sickness, and afterward that he was mending, and seldom in my life have I been more shocked than I was when a telegram reached me that Alfred Cookman was dead! I could scarcely believe it. He stood before me so fresh and young, so rounded in his character, so vigorous in his movements, that I could scarcely believe he was gone. I would not be anxious about what he said at the last, for knowing him in life, we know him in death; and I could say of him what I could say of very few, that I know, as far as I know any thing, that he is with God, for he walked with God. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. So that I am not anxious about any last expressions.

Yet I am told he uttered just what I should expect of such a man, with his chamber "quite on the verge of heaven." To his dear partner, upon whom I trust the rich grace of God may rest abundantly, that as he was permitted in life to be her guardian angel, so up yonder he should watch, and open the pearly gates and welcome her in when she should come. He had a dream, or a waking thought, that he had gone up to glory, and his dear brother met him, and presented him as washed in the blood of the Lamb. His sainted father met him, and presented him as washed in the blood of the Lamb. His dear boy met him, and presented him in a similar way; and he realized that he was washed indeed in the blood of the Lamb. He was a good man, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and his life-work was manifestly done when he came to die.

And now, Christian people, those of you who have sat under his ministry, what would these lips say if they could speak? what would this voice utter if it could be heard? Would it not say, "Come to the cross?"—"Come to Jesus now?" Would he not speak of the fullness of salvation? Would he not tell of the love of Jesus Christ? Would he not, if he could, unveil the glories of heaven? Would he not say to you and me, "Brethren and sisters in Christ, 'Stand up for Jesus.'" And would it not be wisdom for us to do so? Would it not be, that we should seek for and enjoy full redemption in the blood of the Lamb? Let us here consecrate ourselves more fully to the glory of God. Let us, Christian ministers, my brothers in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, preach Jesus more fully, more powerfully, until the world shall be converted. The ministers are falling, therefore we who are spared should be more faithful, and pray to be made more successful from year to year. I would invoke upon our dear sister, who feels to-day that the light of her house and the joy of her heart has been taken from her, the rich grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. To this mother, whose smitten heart has been called so often to mourn, may I offer the rich consolations of the Gospel of Christ. Oh, how many ties are up there in glory! A husband; the second son; this elder son—all of them saved. In the midst of years may the grace of the Lord Jesus be given unto her richly. And to these brothers and sister I would say, Oh, that this dispensation may be sanctified to their good. And on this brother, who is in the ministry of Jesus Christ, oh, on him, in addition to all that has been given him, may the mantle of his father and brother rest. And to these brothers, who are, hand in hand, taking hold upon the business of earth, and yet preparing for the state hereafter, may God strengthen them for their journey. And to these boys and girls, who will never more hear their father's voice, may God be gracious to you, my dear children. Walk in the footsteps of your father.

Early in life may you manifest the religion which he chose, and may these sons be the sons of God. May the Spirit of God rest upon them, and save them from the snares of the wicked one. And these daughters, may they grow in loveliness, and may the spirit of Christianity be manifested in all their lives.

Christian friends, with these weeping ones, this widow and mother, and brothers and sister, and children, may we covenant with God to be more faithful than ever. And may this church, that has echoed with his voice, witness a glorious revival of religion; and may his teaching bring forth fruit to the honor and glory of God; and when we come to die, may we have a peaceful hour in which to pass away, and may we mingle with that glorified company around the throne of God.

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#### REV. WILLIAM McDONALD'S REMARKS AT THE FUNERAL OF REV. ALFRED COOKMAN.

I was never more profoundly impressed with my almost utter inability to discharge a duty than I am to present to you the character of our dear brother. I confess that since I first heard the announcement of his death, I have scarcely been able to control my feelings sufficiently to collect any thoughts for this occasion. My purpose is, in the very few words I shall address to you, to speak of our dear brother in his relations to the doctrine and experience of Christian holiness. I am sure, if he were permitted to speak about it, and to express a wish in that regard, it would be that this subject—in which his soul so much delighted, and upon which his heart so often dwelt with joy—should be made very prominent about his mortal remains. He was, in the first place, a consistent exemplar of the doctrine and experience of Christian holiness—none was more so. In casting my thoughts over the Church, I declare to this immense congregation that I can select no man in the ministry, that rises before me, that sheds forth a clearer light, or who spake more definitely and instructively upon this great theme than did he. He had a very definite experience upon this grace. \* \* \* I think I shall not forget, either in time or eternity, the expression he made at the Round Lake camp-meeting two years ago, when he arose, and in a very modest manner said—"Alfred Cookman, washed in the blood of the Lamb;" and that experience was repeated over and over again with great distinctness and force. Not only did he declare an experience on this subject, but he was able to stand in the defense of this doctrine. Wherever he went the people expected to hear the doctrine of Christian perfection, as held by the

Methodist Church. They expected words of power from his lips, and they never failed to be gratified in this respect.

When at the first there was a call for a National camp-meeting for the promotion of holiness, he accepted the position, and from that moment he has been one of its most earnest and loved promoters. He was with the brethren in this work at the first National camp-meeting at Vineland. He was at Manheim, at Round Lake, at Oakington and Desplaines, and then again at Round Lake, and then at the last at Urbana. And who will ever forget the sermons he preached at these camp-meetings? Such power, such thrilling pathos, such mighty influences, and such a divine unction as were manifest under the preaching of our dear Brother Alfred Cookman, I never witnessed elsewhere. There were hundreds of ministers, and I have no doubt thousands of members, who will thank God for those sermons he preached at Urbana, Ohio.

I can not realize that my dear Brother Cookman is dead. I can not realize that I shall see his face no more—a face always wreathed with heavenly smiles, a face always indicating a blessing to those to whom he preached. I can not realize that I shall never hear that peculiarly sweet-toned voice, urging the sacramental host of God to “be holy,” and to “be filled with the Spirit;” and those prayers offered to the Throne of Grace that bore him up to the very third heavens. It seems to me it can not be so—yet it is. It does not seem to me that in the work laid out for the National Association for the coming year that our dear Brother Alfred will not be there. Oh, how his presence ever cheered us! how his voice ever thrilled us! how his prayers and sermons and exhortations enriched us! He will not be there; and yet I am expecting he will be there; unless there is something very important to prevent it—he will come and linger around those scenes. A wife has lost a very loving husband; these children have lost an affectionate father; this Church has lost an honored pastor; and the Church at large a worthy minister—but there are mourners here other than these. The members of the National Association for the Promotion of Holiness mourn as few others mourn. This dear brother has been with us in the days of our toil and affliction. Had you been with us as he has been with us, you might know of ties that do not bind many hearts together. A number of us are here, and we feel our loss deeply, and we know not how his place can well be supplied.

## MR. COOKMAN AS A CHRISTIAN MAN.

BY THE REV. ANDREW LONGACRE.

There can be no doubt that Mr. Cookman's personal character entered largely into the elements of his power. It was the substratum on which his ample influence securely rested. It is difficult, however, to distinguish in him the simply natural endowments from the precious gifts of divine grace, since grace began its work so early in him. But it is not necessary to make the distinction. As we knew him, he was a thorough Christian gentleman, and the outward grace in him was but the gleam of the light of the gentle spirit and fine feelings within. To many of us he was what Tennyson calls his friend—

“The sweetest soul  
That ever looked through human eyes.”

He was magnanimous in every instinct, never little or mean, incapable of detraction himself and unsuspicious of it in others. His soul moved on the high plain where all is broad and liberal and unselfish.

He was honest to his convictions at every cost; and there were votes in Conference that did cost him something in other days, as there were convictions as a teacher of the truth more recently that were not unattended with trial and alienation of friends. But nobody had ever to doubt where Alfred Cookman stood on a question of conscience. And this was with no shadow of bravado or self-assertion, but in the “meekness of wisdom,” with the very “meekness and gentleness,” the “sweet reasonableness of Christ.”

His character was rounded and well poised, and there was with it also a deeper underlying wisdom than many who knew him well imagined, because it was always perfectly unobtrusive. Altogether he was peculiarly a man made to be loved. Unselfish in his friendship, his quick sympathies and warm interest were freely given in return for the love we gave him. Few men have ever been so widely or so greatly beloved. In the churches he had served, and I speak understandingly, for I have twice followed him at considerable intervals, his name is embalmed in a deep and peculiar affection, as one dearer and better than other men.

Higher than all else was his character as a man of God. It was because we saw and felt the holiness of his life that his influence was so strong with us. His mind was drawn to the subject of entire sanctification in the very beginning of his ministry by Bishop and Mrs. Hamline, then visiting Newtown, one of his appointments. For a number of years, however, his views were undecided with respect to this doctrine. But about thirteen years ago his conscience was awakened to it again, and he entered into the clear en-



joyment of it as a personal experience. His convictions on this subject became from that time the profoundest of his mind and heart ; and he never failed, on all fitting occasions, to let his belief and his experience be well understood. Yet I need scarce remind you that his confession had in it nothing of self-exaltation. He never failed to disclaim all goodness in or from himself ; but he rejoiced always, and with an exultant faith, in the power of the blood of Jesus to cleanse him from all sin.

His own faith and experience never seemed to separate him from others who did not think or feel as he did. No one felt at a distance from him by reason of his holiness. It was a holiness that attracted, not one that repelled.

He has supported this scriptural teaching with all his consecrated abilities. To it he has given the most cogent of his arguments, and still more effectively his almost irresistible powers of persuasion.

But his life has been more powerful still. Men might, if they pleased, oppose his arguments with doubts and objections ; they might even turn away from his burning appeals ; but no one could question the living purity of the man, the practical embodiment of holiness in his life. In the shadow of approaching death he expressed his joy and gratitude that he had been permitted to experience and to uphold this great salvation, the fullness of the power of Jesus Christ to save.

And he has gone. In the golden prime of his days, in the fresh maturity and plenitude of his beautiful life, he has gone from his work, and from us, who have loved him so well.

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Recollections of Alfred Cookman, as a preacher, by the Rev. James M. Lightbourn, of Baltimore, Md. :

"Alfred Cookman was the best model of a Methodist preacher I ever knew. He was, in the highest and strictest sense of the word, a gentleman. True politeness springs from the heart—such was his. He was as gentle and respectful to the humble poor as he was graceful and polite to the most refined and cultured. With suavity of manners he united firmness of character. While his spirit was most loving, and his nature gentle and extremely sensitive, he was a hero in the cause of truth, both aggressively and defensively.

"As a camp-meeting preacher, Alfred Cookman was a prince among his brethren. An announcement that he would preach always insured a large congregation. A sermon preached by him at the Camden camp, upon the

subject of entire sanctification, will never be forgotten by those who heard it. It was the clearest exposition of the great doctrine I ever heard. His appeals were irresistible, and swept all hearts. The fire which he kindled that day he drew from heaven. The Spirit of the Lord God was upon him—his face was like that of an angel, and his voice rang over the vast audience carrying conviction to many Laodicean hearts. Revivals have been known to follow his camp-meeting efforts."

A tribute from the Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, D.D. :

"The Rev. Alfred Cookman's life comes back to me like the sound from a church-bell embowered in trees on a soft June day. It was nothing so much I ever heard him say, or any thing I ever saw him do, that so impressed me as *himself*. He was the grace of the Gospel impersonated. I met him often on the platform of religious and philanthropic meetings. To be with him was to be blessed. The more I saw him the more I loved him. His preaching was not made up of ten grains of metaphysics and nine grains of German philosophy to one grain of Gospel, but with him Christ was *all and in all*! Sweep a circle of three feet around the cross of Jesus, and you take in all that there was of Alfred Cookman.

"It is not so much the Methodist Church that suffers from his departure as all Christendom. Oh, that we all might have more of his spirit, and die at last his beautiful and triumphant death!"

The Rev. E. Wentworth, D.D., editor of *The Ladies' Repository*, writes :

"Alfred was the most thoroughly religious man of my acquaintance—religious beyond suspicion of cant, hypocrisy, or profession.

"In social life his religion was never obtrusive, but you felt its perpetual presence and abiding power. This was not Sunday religion or pulpit piety, camp-meeting fervor or revival fire. His devotion was a living flame, his example a shining light, his influence a genial glow, his eloquence genuine, his zeal—the offspring of his deepest convictions—unsparing. The only drawback to the pleasure and correspondent profit of listening to his passionate appeals and sublime outbursts was the conviction that he was using himself up, and that he would die a martyr to his own fervidness before he reached middle life. It was even so. He belongs to the class of early martyrs—geniuses like Mozart, Mendelssohn, Summerfield, and F. W. Robertson—whose passionate souls made an early holocaust of the physical man. He has gone sweeping through the gates, as he went sweeping through life, and as he will go triumphantly sweeping up the streets of the New Jerusa-

lem, attended by the thousands converted through his powerful ministry, saying—"Here am I and the children which God has given me."

The Rev. Dr. W. M. Paxton's estimate of Mr. Cookman's preaching :

"As a preacher, I always regarded him as remarkable. His sermons were solid, able, experimental, instructive, and sometimes brilliant, glowing, eloquent. His pulpit power, as I estimated it, consisted largely in two things :

"1. In the happy faculty which he had of giving an experimental cast to all his thinking. Few men have been as successful as he was in imbuing all their preaching with their own rich experience.

"2. In a singular capacity for pictorial illustration. This, I presume, was in a measure a natural gift, inherited from his distinguished father, who, I am told, was in his day unrivaled in this species of eloquence—but when his voice was silenced, the gift was reproduced in his son. I remember to have listened, or rather to have looked with great delight at his beautiful pictures, for they were so graphic that they passed like panoramic paintings before my view. I presume, of course, that a volume of his sermons will be published ; but permit me to suggest, also, that a small volume of pictorial illustrations, gathered from his sermons, might do great good. It occurs to me, however, that it is quite probable that many of his finest things were never written. The faculty being a gift, and not an acquirement, I can well understand that it would be fettered rather than assisted by the pen."

From the Rev. George S. Hare, D.D., the successor of Mr. Cookman at the Central Church, Newark, New Jersey :

"I first met Alfred Cookman in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was very open and frank, and went at once to a warm place in my heart. The thing that struck me, outside of himself, at Pittsburgh, was that he was so entirely loved, and almost idolized by his people. I could easily tell why, from the impression he had made on myself. I met him again soon after in New York, where I was a pastor, and he had come to speak at an anniversary. I do not remember to have had any further intercourse with him until he succeeded me as pastor of the Central Church, in New York. I had removed to Trinity, in the same city, and of course we saw much of each other. I think the relations of an old pastor and his successor were never more delightful. Knowing the Church by heart, I had an opportunity to observe his influence upon it—to see how quickly he won all hearts, and how entirely they came to confide in him as a friend and teacher. He fol-

lowed me also at Trinity, and our relations remained the same. We were true friends and brothers in our work, and Alfred Cookman never impressed me but in one way—as the gentlest, purest, and most sincere of men. I am again his successor, but never more will he succeed me. I came here under the shadow of his death to a broken-hearted people. It is doubtful if he ever accomplished more for a Church in any full term of service than for this Central Church of Newark in the few months of his pastorate here. He was ripe in his holiness, and his influence fell like a power of God on all around him. His triumphant death sealed it all, and left the Church so chastened in spirit, so in love with goodness, so aspirant toward purity, that it has been but an easy and joyful task to lead it on to good and noble works. His memory here is as sweet and precious as the memory of mortal man can be. I attempt no estimate of his character, but I give these few impressions of an influence which has fallen like sunshine on my way, with gratitude to God that He gave me Alfred Cookman for a friend and a brother.”

I can not more appropriately close these testimonials to the worth and usefulness of Mr. Cookman, nor the history of the life which it has been my pleasant task to record, than by quoting the reference made to his character and death by the Rev. W. M. Punshon, in the memorable address delivered by that gentleman before the late General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the city of Brooklyn. After eloquently characterizing Bishops Baker, Clark, Thomson, and Kingsley, the Rev. Drs. Mattison, Sewall, McClintock, and Nadal, all of whom had died since he came to America, he said :

“And then I think of a later loss than these—a blameless and beautiful character, whose name had a hereditary charm for me, whose saintly spirit exhaled so sweet a fragrance that the perfume lingers with me yet, and who went home like a plumed warrior, for whom the everlasting doors were lifted, as he was stricken into victory in his prime, and who had nothing to do at the last but mount into the chariot of Israel, and go ‘sweeping through the gates, washed in the blood of the Lamb.’”







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